



# MORAVIAN MESSENGER

## 2025 - an Ecumenical Year of Pilgrimage on Justice, Reconciliation, and Unity

As the new year begins, I find myself reflecting on past challenges while remaining ever-hopeful. Like many, I carry a list of resolutions that, while ambitious and perhaps predoomed, reflect my optimism for what lies ahead.

Recently, I visited Geneva, a city that epitomises global collaboration and shared purpose. I was there to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the Geneva Fellowship and to visit the World Council of Churches. Standing before the Broken Chair monument in front of the United Nations, I was struck by the profound tension between human frailty and resilience. This 12-metre-tall wooden sculpture, created in 1997 by Handicap International, symbolises both brokenness and hope. It calls for justice and peace, even amidst conflict. Initially designed to promote the ban of anti-personnel mines and later cluster munitions, the plaque beneath it reminds us:

'Broken Chair is a reminder to the world's nations to protect and aid our civilian victims. It invites each one of us to denounce that which is unacceptable, to stand up for the rights of individuals and communities and call for their rightful compensations.'

Nearby, at the World Council of Churches, I participated in discussions about their vision for 2025 - an Ecumenical Year of Pilgrimage on Justice, Reconciliation, and Unity. Recognising that we are all on a journey, this initiative seeks to renew the call for a shared future and Christian Unity. The year will commemorate the 1,700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, born of the First Ecumenical Council at Nicaea in 325.



© Sr Roberta Hoey

This landmark council was the first attempt to achieve consensus across Christendom, offering a defining statement of Christian belief that emerged through dialogue and deep listening among diverse voices.

It will also mark the centenary of the 1925 Universal Christian Conference on Life and Work in Stockholm, which brought Anglican, Protestant, and Orthodox leaders together in the aftermath of the First World War to speak out for justice, peace, and reconciliation. This event inspired the eventual formation of the World Council of Churches in 1948. To honour these legacies, the WCC will host a series of events culminating in the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order, set to take place near Alexandria, Egypt, in October 2025.

As Moravians, we are no strangers to dialogue and collaboration. In 2024, the British Province was deeply engaged in ecumenical activity, highlighted by the signing of the Armagh Agreement and the expansion of our Provincial Ecumenical Officers. Our Church has long sought to build relationships across boundaries, showing a willingness to listen and lean into one another's

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## Editorial

One of the highlights of my day is feeding the birds and then watching them fly onto the table. They are very spoilt birds with a special mix, created by me, for them. They also have flaked peanuts, fat balls and sunflower seeds in hanging feeders. And as a reward I get a wonderful number and variety of birds that I can watch from the window; robins, dunnocks, sparrows, thrushes, starlings, various varieties of tits, gold finches, wrens, pied wagtails, rooks, jackdaws, pigeons and collared doves (yes I know I am boasting now).

They need the food that I put out day in and day out particularly during the cold winter months. And I need them to lighten my life, bring me joy and keep me close to God's good creation. They are for me a reminder that I am but one part of God's creation. The first two chapters of Genesis give us an image of a created order at ease with itself and basking in God's love and the third chapter shows the arrogance of humankind wrecking it for everyone.

Although I believe this to be picture language the third chapter of Genesis expresses a terrible truth: that our egos put us in God's place and our desire to have it all have fatally broken our relationship with both God and nature and of course our relationships with each other. Of course, there needs to be reconciliation between us and God and there needs to be reconciliation in our homes, families, communities and between nations. But perhaps a third strand is a reconciliation between us as human beings collectively and individually and the world around us.

Many of us were delighted to hear that the Government wants to build approximately 1.5 million homes this year. Everyone deserves to have good appropriate housing, and this is one of the things that will go a long way to improving children's lives. Of course, this will put more pressure on land use and there are already pressures on land for food production, transport and warehousing.

The question that needs to be addressed is how can we build that housing and the other infrastructure that is needed with regard to the world around us. Can this construction be made ecologically sound and can it accommodate the needs of nature rather than just destroying habitats? Can we avoid green grass deserts, hard impermeable surfacing and instead accommodate planting that will benefit the birds and bees, surfaces that will absorb water and create space that will enable everyone to come closer to God's creation? Can planning and architecture work to make this possible?

There will need to be a wholesale move from just building the cheapest and quickest to building the best and planning for the needs of nature as well as the humans that will inhabit and work in these places. We cannot continually expand and take land for building without taking account of the rest of creation - to do that is a kind of theft! How can we work as individuals, communities and churches to make our existing buildings and communities more nature friendly and influence others to plan sensitively for people and nature.

A New Year challenge would be to live as though the rest of creation really matters. After all we pray 'thy kingdom come' each and every day and surely that kingdom means all of creation not just us.

**Sr Sarah Groves**  
Editorial team



## 2025 - an Ecumenical Year of Pilgrimage on Justice, Reconciliation, and Unity

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experiences. This year, we have the opportunity to embody this spirit of collaboration within our congregations and beyond. How can we, as individuals and communities, foster deeper connections? How can we step out of our comfort zones to hear and embrace the perspectives of others?

The Broken Chair reminded me that our faith calls us to stand with the marginalised and work towards justice. This work cannot be done in isolation; it demands collective action, ecumenical cooperation, and the courage to address uncomfortable truths.

As we step into 2025, let us carry the lessons of the past with renewed hope. Together, we can transform these lessons into tools for growth, building bridges that unite and inspire.

**Sr Roberta Hoey**  
Chair of the Unity Board



## Letter to the Editorial team

### In response to Br Peter Gubi

*I thank Br Peter for raising the question of interregnums and the financial implications for congregations, which may be something that a future Synod wishes to debate, although it is worth mentioning that travel expenses for pulpit supply can be claimed from the Province. I also thank the editorial team for giving more detail about the ministerial provision in each district. I note that Sr Patsy Holdsworth was omitted as, although she is currently on leave, she is still a minister in the Lancashire District. Since the letter was written, Br James Woolford, having returned from a period of leave, has been called to support the Lancashire District and there is now a congregation in interregnum in Yorkshire.*

*In the past, interregnums were unusual as we had plenty of ordained ministers. However, in the next few years there are several ministers who will be due to retire which means that by 2027 we could have eleven stipendiary and two non-stipendiary ministers in the Province. This means that we face the possibility of interregnums becoming more common. The alternatives include spreading our ministers more thinly, which is what happens in many other denominations, or reducing the number of congregations.*

*The question of finance is therefore part of a bigger discussion that needs to be had about ministerial provision. This will include how we recruit, train and deploy ordained ministers, and how we develop and support lay leadership, as strengthening the capacity of both will play a crucial role in the future of the British Province. I am grateful that Br Peter's letter has helped to highlight this important topic.*

**Br Michael Newman**  
Minister of Hornsey and Fetter Lane Congregations

# Raising Faith Monthly

from the Youth and Children's Committee (YCC)

Our third article in this series comes to us from an Ecumenical connection, Sr Kai Bland a Youth and Children's Minister for the Methodist Church based in Leyland.

Kai shares with us how to create a welcoming space that enables worship for people who have neurodiversity. I wonder what we can take from this article that may inform the way we create

Church and ensure it is a space that all feel welcomed, included and loved?

We thank Sr Kai for providing us with such an inspiring 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.

# Diverse

We've all been in a service with that problematic family - noisy, disruptive, shouting, screaming - you know the type. But maybe you've been that family, with every eye in the room on you, desperately trying to fit in, while just trying to find God in worship with an autistic child in meltdown.

Maybe there's that odd guy who's often at church. He just doesn't 'fit'; never looks anyone in the eye and always says the strangest things. Or maybe that's you. Maybe the social conventions of shaking hands while looking someone in the eye or being expected to sit still for 15 minutes at a time, while still worshipping cause your entire nervous system to freeze.

At Leyland Methodist Church, in Lancashire, we have experienced these examples, and we wanted to do something different, something that would really help the whole range of neurodiverse people who come through our doors.

This is the backdrop for *Diverse*. Its tagline is 'All loved; All unique; All in God's Kingdom', because we believe that whoever you are, there should be no barrier to you accessing worship and experiencing God. As churches, we have all embraced the access ramp, the induction loop, the large print or even braille reading material - these things happened a while ago and are working well on the whole. But what about for people whose disabilities are less obvious, or even invisible; the ones for whom the solution is not a quick fix?

Neurotype	The way a person's brain works. The way they interpret the stimuli in the world around them.
Predominant Neurotype	The most common neurotype, sometimes referred to as "Neurotypical", though this suggests that anyone who isn't the PNT, is "atypical", or weird.
Neurodivergent	A person who does not fit the Predominant Neurotype - they may have an identified neurodevelopmental condition, or may not.
Neurodiverse	A community of people who are not all of one neurotype. This will likely be a true description of your church.
Meltdown/Shutdown	a point at which a person's sensory system has become overloaded with stimuli and can no longer function. This can look different for every individual but their actions are not usually in their control.
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SENDCo	School SEND coordinator

The project took around a year from the first green shoots of an idea to the first act of worship taking place in June this year. It took a lot of consultation with a range of individuals about their experiences, experts including the amazing Lynn McCann from Reachout ASC and SENDCos. We gathered a neurodiverse and passionate team and set out to face the range of needs and people we could be catering to. We began by considering the space and resources we had - how could we reduce the unwanted stimulation (smells, noises, bright lights, busy walls)? How could we make it intentionally welcoming, without putting an expectation of social interaction in place? We created a quiet, sensory space, we created an active space, and we arranged the main worship area in such a way that it allowed people to sit with or away from people as desired.

We published the order of service and attempted to keep to this in order to create routine and predictability, while allowing some freedom within this.

We have very much lent into a 'spirit led' approach, which is my professional term for 'giving it a go and seeing what happens'. We have attempted a number of things, some of which have worked, and some of which haven't, but the biggest thing we've learned is that this community is very diverse - hence the name! There will never be a single approach that will meet the needs of every neurodivergent person but it has been so important that we have listened to feedback and have been willing to give things a go.

This may sound overwhelming. You may be thinking 'how on Earth could we do this?!', but there are things your church can do.

- Provide fidget toys (or a knitting basket) available at the door - and normalize using them!
- Build in **movement** to your services
- Don't assume!** Ask people what will help them or their family to engage in worship. They are the **experts** in their own needs.
- Let people know how long things will last** (This sermon will last around 15 minutes. This video is 4 minutes long).
- Give people an choice** to not do things that are uncomfortable (sharing the peace, small talk with a church welcomer)
- Consider some neurodiversity **training** for your church.
- Consider a quiet area**, if you have the space, even in a different room close by.
- Consider how you can **reduce the sensory "noise"** in your building (think of all the senses)

# Walking in their footsteps



© Sr Mary Holmes

'Walking in their footsteps we were touching our past and our future'. One speaker said this, and it felt so true on a recent visit to Suchdol nad Odrou in southern Czech Republic. Lorraine Parsons and myself had travelled to Suchdol to attend the 10th International Moravian History Conference organised by the Moravian Natural History Association, with the main topic as the emigration to Herrnhut.

Suchdol nad Odrou, a small town not too far from the Polish border, is the spiritual home of our Church. If the brave men, women and children had not become migrants to escape religious persecution there would most likely have been no Herrnhut and no Moravian Church. At the conference we were immersed in the story of over five hundred people who left their homes, their farms, families and friends for an unknown future.

We heard about the walk to Herrnhut, now commemorated by the Via Exulantis, which follows the first route from Suchdol nad Odrou. We even met one person who had walked the 500 miles, plus one pastor and some of his congregation who had completed the journey on their motorbikes.

We heard about three women from Mankovice: Anna Stach, the youngest daughter, had to hide from soldiers and jump from a window to join her mother, Rosina, and the family escaped. This village has links going back to the ideology of Jan Hus and many villagers were members of the Unity of Brethren.

A family from Bernartice nad Odrou, a few miles from Suchdol nad Odrou, had to emigrate for similar reasons. The impact of leaving in such traumatic circumstances clearly had a significant effect on the mother. It is recorded that she cried for eight days once in Herrnhut and was visited by Zinzendorf, who prayed with them.

Not everyone escaped: 280 people from Suchdol nad Odrou and 167 from Kunewald (now Kunin) were interrogated

and put on trial. Jan Moravek and his six year old sister were imprisoned by Jesuits who were searching for copies of a Kralitz Bible and books by Comenius.

The talks also followed local folk who later moved out from Herrnhut as missionaries, from 1732 onwards. Jan Moravek was released from prison: as an adult he went to Berlin, taught in Herrnhut and was a missionary, with his wife Suzanne, in Serepta in Russia.

Lorraine Parsons delivered an interesting talk about John Heckewelder. His father David and grandfather George were both born in Suchdol nad Odrou. John grew up in England where his parents had moved from Herrnhut to work for the church. After being educated at Fulneck, he became a missionary spending much of his life among the Delaware in America.

Lorraine and I had the privilege of unveiling a plaque to Mathaus Kunz on the wall where it records those who left the area to serve the Moravian Church far and wide. Kunz left Suchdol nad Odrou at the age of 21. Having worked as a carpenter in Herrnhut he moved to London and then Bethlehem, America. He returned to London and there met four others. They travelled together on a ship called 'Hope' to Labrador where Kunz met and worked alongside the indigenous people.

As well as talks which gave fascinating personal details about the people and the hardships they faced, we visited many interesting places. There were tours of local villages where emigrants had left

for Herrnhut. In Suchdol nad Odrou, we saw the Comenius statue that states 'to become a man he must be educated'. Also, we saw the Comenius lime (or linden) tree and commemorative plaques to Martin and Samuel Schneider.

Before emigrating, the only safe way to worship together was in the dark of the night, deep in a local forest. We went to the one set up by Martin Schneider. He would have led folk there in quiet and with very little light, fear always at their back. We walked noisily together across rough ground, with laughter and lots of help as we crossed a stream in full spate. We then fell silent as we entered the space that truly looks like a church, with tall trees bending over to offer protection and a sense of being held. Here we had a short service and remembered those who had gone before us and thought of those who will come after us.

Near this forest is a Rose Garden that has been created to mark the spot where it is said the five men of Suchdol nad Odrou prayed before their difficult journey. Here is a quote describing that event, taken from the sermon delivered at the Evangelical Church, Suchdol, on the Sunday of the conference.

David Nitschmann, David Nitschmann, David Nitschmann, Johann Teltschik, Melchior Zeisberger. The five pillars of the church. Five young men who escaped from Suchdol. Three hundred years ago. Eleven days later, they reached Herrnhut. A detailed description of the journey has been preserved to this day.

In his diary, David Nitschmann Syndikus

## Sr Chris Porter reports on the Yorkshire District Conference held at Baildon on 28th September 2024

A joint weekend of celebration is planned for Pentecost next year - Come Alive in 25. A sum of £4,000 has been offered to the district to further develop youth work. Plans are being made for individual congregation events on the Saturday and each congregation would then come together for a joint service at Lower Wyke on Sunday, followed by a BBQ and games in the paddock.

Following the theme of youth development, the conference was informed that a member at Lower Wyke had started ten hours per week paid work working with the youth at Fairfield but is only just 18 and may need support in the coming months. Discussions will be held about whether his work could extend further to do youth work in the Yorkshire District.

writes: 'Around ten o'clock at night we knelt in the fields at the end of the village of Suchdol, prayed for the surrounding area, especially for Suchdol, and asked the dear God to lead us as the nation of Israel, by day through the clouds, by night through the pillar of fire, to show us the land which He had sought and chosen for us according to His heart, where our feet would rest in peace'.

Overall, this was an unforgettable experience full of fellowship, learning and fun. On a personal note, I am grateful to those who took us to Fulneck after the conference. This allowed me to visit the namesake of my church and to visit the Comenius Museum. The visit to Suchdol nad Odrou was so well organised by the local Moravian Natural History Association and I wish to extend a grateful thanks to them for their warmth and generosity: we met many people that are interested in our shared history and keen to build connections.

**Sr Mary Holmes**

Fulneck



### Provincial Board Report

A report from the Provincial Board gave updates on Holy Habits, work on a new hymn book, Summer Camp, ministry, finance, and the first women's conference in the South Asia Province. At Synod 24 it was passed that districts should arrange meetings to address environmental issues. It was agreed that the Fellowship meeting at Fulneck in January 2025 would be a good opportunity to discuss this topic, suggested speakers being Sr Janet Cooper, Sr Claire Maxwell and Br Kenneth Evans.

### Congregations

Baildon reported that they have 16 members and three adherents. Sunday services are held at 10.30am, the third Sunday during term time is a Youth and Parade service with the uniformed organisations attending when they can. Activities have included the annual beer festival, Yorkshire Day and Baildon at Christmas and these continue to be well supported.

Wellhouse have 11 members with services each Sunday at 3pm, with Lovefeast and Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month. The Women's Fellowship meet once a week and the MWA meet once a month. Events included a Christmas supper, a Christian Aid lunch, an Easter egg hunt, and a quiz night.

Lower Wyke have 28 members, and average attendance was 28 and four children. Sr Maxwell preaches on alternate Sundays and is supported by good local preachers for the other days. Café Church remains strong. Many regular groups meet as part of the church community including: Adventurers, Senior Youth, MWA, Snooker, Prayer Group, Holy Habits, Reflections, Wake and Stretch, Community lunch and Greenfingers. The Sunday School continues to be led by a strong team. The Church continues to work well with Bailiffe Bridge and Shirley Manor schools. Community events include the Art Festival, Proms in the Paddock, Craft Fair, Strawberry Fair and the Scarecrow Festival. Sr Claire also provides pastoral support at the Wyke Café: a supportive drop-in centre.

Horton's membership is at 26 with an average attendance of 23 adults and one child. Horton is also blessed with

good local preachers who fill in the gaps around Sr Maxwell's two Sundays of worship each month. They continue with family services when appropriate and these are a time when the more loosely connected families return to church. Gin Church continues in members' homes, with Bible study and prayer followed by a time of fellowship. Women's Fellowship remains strong and monthly coffee mornings welcome people from different churches.

Gomersal reported a membership of 31 and four adherents, with average attendance being 24. Sunday worship is held at 10.30am with Lovefeast and Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Regular activities consist of the Ladies Fellowship, health walks, Julian Prayer Meeting, MWA Circle and Carpet Bowls. Events include a Pumpkin Party, a Fashion Show, a Congregation Meal, Christmas and Summer Fair, a Quiz Night, Easter Eggstravaganza, a Variety Show and a Beetle Drive.

Fulneck hold Sunday services at 10.30am, with the exception of the first Sunday in the month when Lovefeast and Holy Communion is held at 2.30pm. In addition to the usual special services and celebrations, Br Woolford held three evening services of reflection during summer. The Church Committee and members of the congregation continue with Pastoral visits to make all members feel connected to the Church. Craft and chatter groups are held monthly. Events include an Autumn Fare, Christmas tree festival with band concert, bingo evenings, street party for the Church Anniversary, monthly organ recitals and Heritage Open Day combined with a classic car rally. They have supported the local food bank and St George's Crypt this year.

For the *Moravian Singers* Sr Diane Thornton said they were blessed with a good balance of voices including talented soloists, although more members are always welcome. The Choir led the Choral Festival Service at Fulneck last November which was very well received and included a new Carol 'What would Jesus say?' written by Louis Enright, from Lower Wyke. Rehearsals recommenced in January this year for the Memorial Lovefeast Service and the Palm Sunday Service. The next event is the Choral Festival on Sunday 24th November at 6pm at Gomersal.

# Mission Engagement Lead

For centuries, sisters and brothers have supported the work of both the local congregation and wider church, and many of us have been blessed by contacts made through the various support and prayer networks. These networks take many different forms; the Moravian Women's Association, Unity Women's Desk, Provincial Men's Fellowship and countless others both provincial and locally all provide a sense of community, of being part of something bigger than the visible and as a means of demonstrating God's love in our world.

The British Mission Board (BMB) would like to hear from any sister or brother who may wish to complement what already happens by being a Mission Engagement Lead, connecting and sharing information between the British Province and three areas of the Unity's work at the Elim Home, South Africa, Sikonge Mission Hospital, Tanzania and Star Mountain, Palestine. These new and exciting roles will be on a voluntary basis and one of pen-pal-pattern of sharing information, identifying prayer requests and championing the work through funding appeals and for a specific time period agreed with the BMB.

The following provides a flavour of their work.



**Elim Home**  
(source: [www.moravianchurch.co.za/elim-home](http://www.moravianchurch.co.za/elim-home))

Elim Home in the Western Cape in South Africa provides a home for children with severe disabilities.

'Every step forward and each smile makes all our efforts more than worthwhile', says Lesinda Cunningham, nurse and director of Elim Home talking about her often-strenuous job which she regards as her calling. She has headed the care home for children with severe disabilities for several years.

The home belongs to the diaconical programme of the Moravian Church in South Africa (MCSA). Fifty children and young adults aged between four and eighteen currently live at the home. Their parents are unable to look after them

adequately at home or provide them with medical care. The children are looked after round the clock at Elim Home. They receive care, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Games and special activities encourage them to take on as much independence as they can cope with depending on their abilities.

The home has existed since 1963 at the old mission station of Elim which today has about 2,000 inhabitants. It was founded during the apartheid era to look after 'coloured' children with severe intellectual and physical disabilities since there were no suitable institutions at that time. Today, Elim Home is still one of the few support centres in the Western Cape. As a result, there is a long waiting list for a place at the home.

Elim Home also offers day care centres in the nearby villages of Gansbaai and Bredasdorp. There, the children spend mainly four to five hours every day and then return to their families. Besides the therapists, also parents specially trained for the job work at the day care centres. 'It took a lot of effort and endurance to set up the two day-care-centres. The government runs very few care-centres for children with disabilities', says Lesinda Cunningham. 'The legal guidelines for care and support are very strict. We had to provide evidence of our competence and knowledge as prescribed by law for managing this type of centre.'

Financing intensive care and labour-intensive centres remains a constant concern. The South African Department of Health bears only 40 percent of the costs. The larger portion of maintenance, running and labour costs must be financed from their own activities and donations. The new agricultural project started by Elim provides an enormous help: There's an olive plantation of almost 100 trees. New greenhouses produce tomatoes all year round. The sale of oil and canned tomatoes is now a contributory factor to Elim Home income.

'Of course, we also enjoy the taste of our fresh home-grown vegetables', says Lesinda Cunningham. 'And you just have to see the joy on the children's faces when they can help out in the gardens.'

**Sikonge Mission Hospital**  
(source: [mcwt.or.tz](http://mcwt.or.tz))

Br Ezekiel Yona writes: the church continues to coordinate efforts to assist special groups including the elderly, the disabled, and various needy individuals by providing essential necessities that



serve as support in their lives. An example of this is the elderly care centre located at Sikonge Main Hospital, but the coordination process involves district chairpersons and mission area leaders overseeing each parish and organisation to have social welfare departments. Through these departments, all social services are expected to be available to aid the community.

We provide healthcare services through Sikonge Main Hospital, which has become a major hospital in our region. It has continued to offer healthcare services to people from various parts of our country, becoming a refuge for citizens and Tanzanians from neighbouring areas as well as from adjacent districts and regions. Additionally, through this hospital, Tanzanians from all walks of life have been able to secure employment in various positions, based on their education and qualifications. Despite having a main hospital, the Church also operates several dispensaries, including Tabora Dispensary, Kitunda Dispensary, and Nzubuka Dispensary.

**Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre**  
(source: [www.http://starmountain.ps](http://starmountain.ps))

In 1867, the Leprosarium Jesus Hilfe was established by the Worldwide Moravian Church as a secluded sanctuary in Jerusalem for individuals suffering from leprosy. Following the 1948 War, Moravian Sister Johanna Larsen relocated to the Palestinian village of Abu Qash, northeast of Ramallah, and founded a leprosy hospital in 1959. The hospital operated until the 1990s when medical advancements led to the discovery of a cure for leprosy, rendering the hospital unnecessary. In 1981, the facility was transformed into Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre (SMRC), which caters to Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (PwIDs).

SMRC is an institution of the Worldwide Moravian Church working in Palestine. SMRC offers rehabilitation, educational, and empowerment services to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and marginalised groups, while remaining inclusive of all community members. Employing a rights-based developmental approach, it mobilises local and international support to promote dignified livelihoods, in alignment with sustainable development goals. SMRC is committed to designing



specialised programs that uphold the rights of marginalised groups, ensure environmental safety and climate justice, and advance institutional infrastructure, programs, systems, and technological resources.

SMRC employs five administrative staff members, and 24 individuals specialised in rehabilitation and therapy support services.

Our vision: leading in holistic, sustainable development efforts to empower and enable PwDs and marginalised communities to thrive in a secure and inclusive society.

Our mission: to rehabilitate, educate, and empower PwIDs and marginalised communities through a rights-based developmental approach. Additionally, it mobilises local and international support to achieve dignified living standards.

**British Mission Board**

The BMB believes this to be an important and exciting opportunity for someone to share in the wider ministry of our province and those partners we aim to continue to support. We are aware that many members and congregations already support these places of work, and we believe information gathering and sharing will greatly increase the profile of these amazing expressions of God's love working in challenging yet loving situations.



If you would like to know more about these exciting opportunities, please contact Br David Howarth at Moravian Church House in London at: [david.howarth@moravian.org.uk](mailto:david.howarth@moravian.org.uk) or 020 8883 3409.

# European Bishops in Gracehill

© Sr Sarah Groves



Every second year in the last few decades the British bishops and the bishops of the ECP met for a trustful exchange; sometimes on the continent, sometimes in the United Kingdom. From October 21st-25th we met in Gracehill. So we could also celebrate a little bit the appointment of the settlement as a world cultural heritage site. This time we also had Br Petr Krásný from the Czech Province with us and the spouses of the bishops. So the group consisted of Humbert and Erica Hessen and Rhoinde Mijns-Doth, from Utrecht in the Netherlands; from Germany Theodor and Almut Clemens (Herrnhut), and Friedrich and Erdmuth Wass (Herrnhut); from Switzerland me (i.e. Volker) and Dorothee Schulz (Basel); and Joachim Kreusel (Ockbrook) and our host Sarah Groves from the British Province.

Arriving safely from our different places that we had travelled from we were overwhelmed by the generous hospitality with which we were not only picked up in Belfast - not really around the corner - and fed fantastically during the week. Staying in buildings around the square in Gracehill we also got an idea of what it's like to live in such a wonderful place. This sounds like a wonderful holiday and looking back, it also feels like this, because we could get to know almost every congregation of the Irish District. We only missed Belfast, University Road, simply because the hospitality in Kilwarlin, Ballinderry and Cliftonville took longer than planned due to the wonderful food, the wealth of information, good discussions and tours. Each place has its treasures, above all, the people.

The days started normally with a bible

study on reconciliation which became a clear frame through a talk with Sarah Groves and Jared Stephens on Thursday looking at the history and the present situation in Northern Ireland with some glimpse to other regions of the world. This view, focusing on the worldwide unity, was then a central part of the conversation with Sr Roberta Hoey on Wednesday, who also gave an insight into the current situation of the British Province. The extensive tour of Gracehill in the afternoon and dinner with Sally Ann and David Johnston brought us closer to the World Heritage Site in all its beauty (and the associated burdens). If you have read carefully up to here you've missed a person: John McOwat who couldn't come, but we had a lovely video talk with him on Thursday afternoon. On Thursday Sr Roberta Thompson also gave us a tour through the archive of the Irish District and, after our Swiss archive has just been brought up to scratch, I could admire this wonderful and practice-orientated work there. We finished our time celebrating the Cup of Covenant in the church. We could have sung a bit more, but it was such a filled time in the presence of God that we look back full of gratitude. Some of us could stay until Sunday so we were able to enjoy the service with the sermon by Sr Kieran Young Wimberly and the meeting with the congregation afterwards.

We can only thank everybody we met in these days for the kindness and the patience with us foreign guests. What a privilege to have these opportunities as bishops. May God bless you all!

**Br Volker Schulz**  
Bishop of the Unity

## British Mission Board (BMB) News

**'WOMEN OF VISION'**

History was made in November (26th-28th) when the South Asia Moravian Church Mission Province held their first Women's Conference, bringing together more than forty sisters from across India and Nepal and meeting in Rajpur. The keynote speaker was Sr Julie Tomberlin of the Unity Women's Desk with the theme 'Women of Vision'. The sister's shared in conversation, Bible study and fellowship and it was a time of great blessing.

In January the South Asia Mission Province will hold their second Synod in Nepal from 17th-19th January. This Synod will further explore the progress made during the past year in registering



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the Province with the governments of India and Nepal and setting up the administrative systems required for a fully functional Mission Province. Members of the BMB, Srs Jane Carter, Roberta Hoey and Br Joachim Kreusel plan to attend along with Br Jørgen Bøytler, the UBA.

# 'What I Believe'

Sr Sarah Groves interviews Br Peter Dornan, our Project 32 Coordinator



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

I was born and raised in Belfast during the Troubles. Irish father and Scottish mother, second of five children with three brothers and one sister.

I have travelled a fair bit but have always lived in Belfast. I have been married to Nadia for 38 years, have four grown-up children and seven grandchildren (and counting!).

## How and when did you come to faith?

My parents came to faith just before getting married, and so brought us up to love God and go to church. When I was seven years old, I have a memory of praying, asking God to forgive me, and that I wanted to give my life to serve him. At 16, I had to develop a more mature, evidence-based personal faith, which has been tested many times, but has been maintained and matured and developed throughout my whole life. I love Jesus as my Lord and my Saviour, and it is my honour to serve Him in whatever capacity he asks me to. I seek to follow the Lamb, from faith to faith.

## Tell us about your working life and how you integrated your faith and work

After school I trained as a Registered General Nurse in the Belfast City Hospital. I then became a youth pastor in a medium sized church which grew large due to many coming to faith. I managed volunteers in the Northern Ireland Hospice, taught teachers in the Belfast Education Authority, was a project manager in Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC), all before working in the Moravian Church.

I have always sought to do jobs in line with God's calling on my life and utilise the gifts he has given me. Over the years, I have sought to make Jesus King of my work, and in doing so, learning to change my flawed character in that process, hopefully for the benefit of others. That's what makes work fun and worthwhile!

## How did you come to work for the Moravian Church?

I was employed by the Moravian Church for a one-year project at Kilwarlin Moravian Church, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We had to complete historical, archaeological and hydrogeological research on the Thermopylae Garden, as a potential heritage site. I became aware of Moravian history, beliefs and practices during that time, and was approached about the role of Project 32 Coordinator. After much discussion, prayer and an interview in Church House in London, the Church took the risk with me, and I took up the role on 1st June 2023.

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

Yes. For large scale things like war and injustice, local things like cancer, the Troubles, abuse in the church, friends suffering, and personal things; childhood trauma, besetting sins and other people treating me unfairly. I'm human, damaged and broken.

I have had to fume, vent and learn how to run to God rather than away from Him. I have found that I can exchange my anger at the cross of Jesus, then through

faith, find and offer forgiveness, and join the battle of the Kingdom of God to help people and myself be reconciled to God. God is not afraid of our anger but doesn't want it to destroy us or others.

## Are you afraid to die, or can you look beyond death?

*Death is my enemy, but I know that at my death, I will go through it into eternal life simply because of Jesus* (cf. John 11:25). Like most, I am concerned about how it might happen and hope it won't be painful. But the Moravian essential of HOPE, means that I trust God is ultimately bringing in His final Kingdom, where pain, suffering, sin and death will be finally sorted in a just way, and there is an eternity of seeing and serving God and living together the way he intended. I want to help as many people as possible discover this hope, through faith, find love and enter and see this eternal Kingdom of God.

## What can we learn from other Churches and other faiths?

I love church history and am learning to see how at different times and epochs, believers rise up to bring the church back to God in a fresh and real way. The trouble is that we always try to find a religious system that goes on whether God is present among us or not. In the British Province, we need to rediscover the essential life and DNA of the Moravian Church, realise the Lamb has conquered, fall in love with Him again, follow Him, and change the community around us.

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

I play guitar (acoustic, bass and electric), love to sing - although not very well! I enjoy photography and going for regular walks with my wife and grandkids. I read regularly and enjoy learning new things. My favourite film trilogy was Lord of the Rings.

## The place where you feel closest to God?

I feel closest to God in the Bible or a book. I begin with thinking, but that is not enough. I feel close to God when I take this new understanding of God, His life and His love and then challenge my experience to match and live out what God says is true. Truth incarnated in reality is freeing, liberating and life in all its fullness for me.

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

'Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into your rest.'



# Celebrating the Moravian Spirit in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

## Reflections from Laura Cowan, Strategic Tourism and Regeneration Manager, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Ballymena, Northern Ireland.

In October 2024, I had the immense privilege of joining a delegation from Gracehill, Northern Ireland, to celebrate a historic occasion in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA. The event marked the UNESCO World Heritage International Inscription of the Moravian Church Settlements of Bethlehem (USA), Herrnhut (Germany), Christiansfeld (Denmark), and Gracehill (Northern Ireland).

This recognition was a monumental achievement, acknowledging the Outstanding Universal Value the collective Moravian settlements. The celebration in Bethlehem was a truly unmissable experience, as our American counterparts rolled out the red carpet, warmly welcoming international partners. The occasion was about more than just a formal acknowledgment of the UNESCO achievement, it was a celebration of collaboration between transnational partners, each of whom hold a vital place in the Moravian story and a reminder of how shared values and heritage continue to shape our lives today.

The UNESCO recognition of Bethlehem, Herrnhut, Christiansfeld, and Gracehill is a proud achievement for each of these locations but also a celebration of a deeply interconnected and transnational partnership. The cities, though geographically distant, share more than just a common history - they embody the core values of the Moravian Church, including the importance of education, music, communal living, and faith. This partnership, now formalised through UNESCO's World Heritage status, brings together four distinct cultures, united by a shared commitment to preserving their Moravian heritage and ensuring its continued relevance for future generations.

The World Heritage inscription represents not only the history of these Moravian settlements but also the ways in which they have contributed to the cultural fabric of their countries and the wider world. It underscores the universal relevance of the Moravian legacy and the timeless appeal of values such as community, harmony, unity, and the

pursuit of education. Throughout the celebration, it became clear that the Moravian Church and its communities are not just part of our past but vibrant living traditions that continue to inspire and shape the lives of people across the globe.

One of the highlights of the celebration was the opportunity to explore Bethlehem's historic Moravian district. As a representative from Gracehill, a small village in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, the tour was a deeply meaningful experience. It was fascinating to see how the values that shaped Gracehill were mirrored in the architecture, planning, and spiritual life of Bethlehem.

Bethlehem's Moravian district is beautifully preserved, offering a window into the 18th century when the first Moravian settlers laid the foundation for what would become a thriving city. Our group, including visitors from Herrnhut and Christiansfeld, was treated to guided tours of Bethlehem's most iconic landmarks, including the historic Moravian Book Shop, the oldest continuously operating bookstore in the United States and the beautiful Moravian Church, which has served as a spiritual centre for over 280 years.

Our knowledgeable and passionate tour guides provided us with in-depth insights into the history of the Moravian settlers and how their faith and values influenced the development of the city. Walking through the streets, it was easy to imagine the Moravian community of the 18th century, with its focus on education, communal living, and service to others. Many of the buildings we visited are still in use today, hosting worship services, community events, and educational programs. This continuity between past and present is a powerful reflection of the enduring relevance of Moravian traditions.

As we explored the historic district, the beauty of the city itself added to the sense of celebration. Bethlehem is nestled in the picturesque Lehigh Valley, surrounded by rolling hills and a rich tapestry of the most stunning autumn foliage. The city's natural beauty, combined with its historic charm, created

the perfect setting for reflecting on the accomplishments of the Moravian settlers and the future of the Moravian tradition.

What made the event truly special, however, was the spirit of community and friendship that permeated every aspect of the celebration. The people of Bethlehem embraced their international guests, proud and eager to share their city's history, culture, and the Moravian values that continue to guide their lives. It was clear from the very beginning that this celebration was not just about acknowledging the past but about fostering new connections and strengthening existing bonds.

Throughout the celebration, there was a real sense of excitement about the future of this transnational partnership. We spent time engaging in conversations about how the UNESCO World Heritage recognition could further strengthen ties. We discussed ways in which we could collaborate on projects related to cultural preservation, sustainable tourism, and the sharing of resources and knowledge. There was a shared sense of responsibility to ensure that the Moravian values and traditions continue to thrive in each of our communities and are passed down to future generations.

At the heart of the UNESCO recognition is not just the preservation of physical structures but also the preservation of intangible heritage - the beliefs, traditions, and values that have shaped these Moravian communities for centuries.

One of the key takeaways was the importance of sustainable tourism, ensuring that visitors to these historic sites are educated about the Moravian values and traditions in a way that is both respectful and engaging. There was also a strong emphasis on collaboration, ensuring that we continue to share our knowledge and experiences to enhance our collective efforts.

As the celebration in Bethlehem drew to a close, there was a strong sense of anticipation for the next phase of our shared journey. The partnership between Bethlehem, Herrnhut, Christiansfeld, and Gracehill is only just beginning, and there is great enthusiasm about what lies ahead.

*(continues overleaf on page 10)*

# Sr Jackie Pennington reports on the Western District Conference

The Western District met at Brockweir for their Autumn Conference on Saturday 2nd November. Sr Sue Groves led the opening devotions on the theme of All Souls Day.

Sr Lorraine Shorten was elected Chair and Sr Jackie Weston was thanked for her previous service in this role. Sr Jane Carter presented the Provincial Board Report.

A District Safeguarding policy was agreed, and congregations were reminded that they should display the Safeguarding Statement that was adopted at Synod 2024.

As we are a District of small congregations spread out over a large geographic area, it is difficult to find people to take on all the various roles suggested by Project 32, however we do have an NCD Champion for the District, Sr Leigha Shakespeare, who is awaiting training in this role.

Proposal 41, passed by Synod regarding environmental and climate issues, was discussed and it was agreed that our spring meeting on 22nd March, should include a District discussion on this topic.

Plans for District Events include: a District Maundy Thursday service at Brockweir on 17th April, a District 'Away Day' on 17th May at Bath Weston, and a District Day Out on 6th September, venue to be decided.

## Congregation Reports:

Bath Coronation Avenue (8 members) - holds services each Sunday in person and via Zoom. Sr Leigha Shakespeare and Br Keiran Hopton have taken the Worship Leaders course. A 'Coffee and Chat' via Zoom is held each Thursday. The Girls Brigade remains very popular and a sleepover at Weston church is planned for November.

Bath Weston (13 members) - are very active in the local community and run various activities, such as crafting, Lego building, film nights and Quiz nights are held in the Church and Hall. Boys Brigade meet weekly and attend Parade Services. Br Chris Shorten has taken over as editor of 'Buzz' and has also introduced a system for recycling of old mobile phones, laptops etc. to raise money for church funds. The Love Weston Café runs on Fridays and is very popular with the community.

Blackbird Leys (38 members) - the congregation meet in the hall as the church building is unusable, plans for demolishing and rebuilding require more funds than the community is able to raise at present. A café is run from the Hall which is a valuable community asset despite running at a loss. It is hoped that a URC funded Church Related Community Worker may be appointed. The congregation are about to start working through the URC 'Honest Church' documents.

Brockweir (10 members) - our services are held in person and via Zoom. Joint Café Church Services are held with the local Parish Church on 5th Sundays. Our Sunday School is used by several local groups, and we held a successful children's club during the summer. This had led to a weekly children's Thursday

Club which attracts a regular small group of children. WE continue to run monthly charity lunches and also held a charity Afternoon Tea during the summer. The interfaith group SOFT continues to meet each month. The Manse is still up for sale with some interest having been shown.

Swindon (7 members) - Services are held on 2nd and 4th Sundays with a monthly midweek meeting as well. The MWA is very active and involved in community and church projects, including packing shoe boxes for the charity 'Houses of Opportunity'. The congregations also raises money for MWA projects, YPMA, and Mary's Meals. Discussions for the redevelopment of the church building are ongoing and the congregations meet in the hall in the meantime.

Tytherton - Services are held on 1st and 3rd Sundays with a joint service with Swindon on 5th Sundays. The monthly soup lunches attract a good number of local people, and the new Craft and Chat group is proving popular as well. Various other activities such as Easter Egg Hunt, Cakes sales, Teas on the Lawn, and a Frugal Lunch have been held. The church has also been open for Heritage weekends. Property issues and a lack of funds continue to be a problem

The meeting ended with a Cup of Covenant led by Sr Sue Groves which included the reading of the poem 'This Church' by Ann Weems:

*We don't pretend to understand the mystery of what goes on in God's Church.  
We just know that we feel a pervading spirit of love that reaches into the niches of all of us and pulls us out into the open, free and alive and belonging.  
We believe this spirit of love exists because Gods Spirit lives within this Church, this unity of persons trying to be the Good News.  
We see this Church as a circle of persons holding hands ... and dancing ... supporting each other, accepting each other loving each other.  
Each person in this dancing circle is facing outward ... reaching into God's world, listening for the whimpering, watching for the hurting, willing to offer a cup of cold water in His name.  
Sometimes they need the water: sometimes you need the water; sometimes I need the water.  
Being a part of the Church means knowing that the cup is always filled in His name.*

## Celebrating the Moravian Spirit in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (continued from previous page)

This sense of excitement is rooted in the belief that this partnership, forged through a shared commitment to preserving the Moravian heritage, will continue to grow and evolve in the years to come. The bonds we've created during this celebration will undoubtedly continue to strengthen as we work together to

ensure that the Moravian legacy remains a vibrant part of our communities.

The UNESCO World Heritage recognition of these four Moravian settlements is a powerful reminder that our shared history and values transcend borders and time. As we look forward to the future, we are united in our commitment to preserving

this remarkable legacy, ensuring that the Moravian spirit continues to inspire and connect people around the world. With great anticipation, I look forward to the next chapter of this exciting journey, knowing that the ties that bind our communities will only continue to grow stronger in the years ahead.

# CONGREGATION NEWS



© Sr Rosie Hague

## Ockbrook, Derbyshire

On a rather rainy Saturday on 23rd November, Ockbrook Moravian community had the privilege of celebrating the marriage ceremony of Phill Battelle and Rachel Evans. It was a lovely occasion, well

attended in person and via Zoom. We wish them both much happiness in their journey together.

Sr Adriana Davey

## Coronation Avenue, Bath

The last few months have been busy for Coronation Avenue. We were really pleased that Leigha Shakespeare and Kieran Hopkin completed the Worship Leader Course which is a great achievement. Also, we held a Coffee morning at the Church which was well attended on a Saturday morning.

The next important event that happened was Sr Sandra Windmill became a member of our Congregation, transferring her membership from Kingswood Moravian Church. We were really happy she decided to join us officially as she had been attending for a while.

The most recent celebration we had was the baptism of a seven-year-old Girls Brigade girl, Poppy Brooke. This was done in Church after Girls Brigade on a Monday evening by Rev Lorraine Shorten and the family, the Church Family and the Girls Brigade were all in attendance. This was Poppy's own decision, and it was a joy to see her wish come true.



© Sr Brooke

Sr Sandy Smith

## NOTICES

### Moravians in Conversation

Moravians in Conversation is a group made up of sisters and brothers from across the Unity that meets four times a year to discuss topics of shared interest. The group is organised by Br Niels Gaertner from Herrnhuter Missionshilfe, the Moravian Mission Society in Germany. It is open to anyone who is interested.

I recently attended the planning meeting for 2025. The dates and topics will be:

- **Wednesday 29th January at 2pm - Fear**
- **Wednesday 21st May at 2pm - The Nicene Creed** (which is 1,700 years old in 2025)
- **Wednesday 24th September at 2pm - Creation**
- **Wednesday 19th November at 2pm - The Kingdom of God**

I will share the full details including Zoom links with all the ministers and church secretaries a few weeks before each meeting.

This group has been going for a few years now and is a fantastic opportunity to get to know and learn from sisters and brothers from around the world. I hope that you can join us.

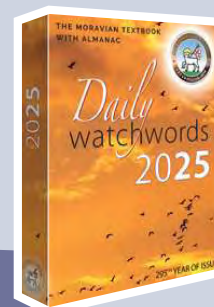
Br Michael Newman

### British Provincial Moravian Church Day of Prayer

You are invited to join us for the day of prayer on Monday 6th January 2025 from 12 midday to 8pm which will be held on Zoom. Depending on your availability you can attend all sessions or some. Our prayer theme will be 'journeying'.

Join Prayer Day on Zoom at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85679958667?pwd=Smzvo6QWd2p0RxNWaLsM2BOHCWcHMu.1>

Meeting ID: 856 7995 8667 Passcode: 539921.



### 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](mailto:gladys.korsah@moravian.org.uk).

## FROM CHURCH HOUSE

### Provincial Diary for January

6	Provincial Day of Prayer	Online
8-9	Provincial Board meeting	Church House
17-19	South Asia Provincial Synod	Kathmandu
25	Youth and Children's Committee	Online

## CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### Baptisms

11th Nov 2024	Poppy Alice Elizabeth Brooke	Bath Coronation Avenue
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### Received into Membership

1st Dec 2024	Diana Barr	Fairfield
1st Dec 2024	Donald Barr	Fairfield
1st Dec 2024	Mike Styan	Fairfield

### Confirmations

15th Dec 2024	Pam Platt	Royton
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### Marriages

23rd Nov 2024	Phillip Battelle & Rachel Evans	Ockbrook
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## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 1 New Year's Day
- 6 Epiphany
- 7 Christmas Day - Orthodox
- 14 New Year - Orthodox
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (<https://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer>)
- 25 Burns Night
- 26 World Leprosy Day ([www.leprosymission.org.uk](http://www.leprosymission.org.uk))
- Isra and Mi'raj - Muslim
- 27 Holocaust Memorial Day (<http://hmd.org.uk/>)
- 29 Chinese New Year

# LABRADOR

## Looking forward to Christmas as a family



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

As everyone will know, having a young baby in the house brings about many changes, but once we had found alternative accommodation for our Bahai lodger, Wendy soon had us in a good routine and Danielle was flourishing. As Christmas approached, it was time to get a Christmas tree! A trip to the garden centre was out of the question, so a number of us set off on our snowmobiles, with snowshoes and saws at the ready, along a middle path up to the frozen ponds which were surrounded by spruce trees. It wasn't a long distance, and it was a beautiful blue cloudless sky, with all the trees heavily laden with snow. Within a couple of hours, we were back with our six-foot fir trees all ready to be decorated. Later in the spring, when I made the same trip on foot to go fishing, I couldn't help but notice there were an awful lot of ten-foot trees with their tops cut off! At Christmas we had actually been walking on ten feet of snow and had cut the top six feet off them for our trees to decorate.

As school broke up for the two-week, holiday we were really looking forward to a relaxing break with trees trimmed, turkeys defrosting and carols playing on the record player. What could go wrong?!

With temperatures down at -20c, the school caretaker had been instructed to check the central heating system every day. I don't know what prompted me to check, but I decided to call in at school to make sure everything was ok. When I opened the school door, I immediately knew something was not right. It was freezing! The boiler had run out of oil. The system had frozen. Unlike the newer teachers' accommodation which ran on oil, circulating hot air around the apartments, the much older school system had old style radiators. I discovered that the system was completely frozen and, not only that, but I also found that a radiator had burst in the Grade 6 classroom and the water had then frozen on the floor several inches thick. I learned that the caretaker had been partying, and feeling the

worse for wear, hadn't checked the school for three days.

However, a number of men from the community rallied round with their support and, after two full days spent chipping ice from the classroom floor, fitting electrical heating cables in the crawl space under the classroom floors, repairing the burst radiator and filling the boiler oil tank, all was put to rights before Christmas day. It was the most exhausting, freezing job I have ever had to do. The remorseful caretaker kept his job and was a model employee from then on.

### School becomes a Magistrates Court

The local RCMP station had one cell and most of the miscreants were held overnight for being drunk and disorderly and released the next day. Repeat offenders were sometimes held for longer and more serious offenders were dealt with by the magistrate who flew into town to hold court. As the only suitably sized building the school was hired for the day with a classroom set aside for the court room. It felt quite strange seeing the offenders sitting in the school corridor waiting their turn.

Generally speaking, most of the sentences included community service, overseen by our own RCMP sergeant, which was far more practical than sending offenders out to the prison in Newfoundland. One offender was ordered to cut and stack firewood for the police station, which he duly did. However, it was soon discovered that he had deliberately cut every single log two inches too long so that it wouldn't fit into the wood stove much to the annoyance of the authorities. There was nothing that they could do to him as he had done what his sentence required, and the sergeant had to shorten every log before it could be used.

Living and working in Labrador was continuing to bring new experiences and challenges but nothing compared with the early missionaries who travelled there so long ago!

*Br Bob Hopcroft*

## TOTE BAGS FOR SALE



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[Lorraine.shorten@moravian.org.uk](mailto:Lorraine.shorten@moravian.org.uk)

Charity Number: 251211

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