

Moravian messenger



January
2012

Br. Michael Rea considers:

a time to pause, a time to reflect...

If one takes time to pause and reflect on how the passage of time impacts on our lives a good starting point is that instant, that midnight hour, when one calendar year comes to an end and a new one begins.

Images are formed by words of hymn writers and poets - "standing at the portal", "being on the threshold", stepping from the old to the new. Finite time and eternity wrapped in a moment.

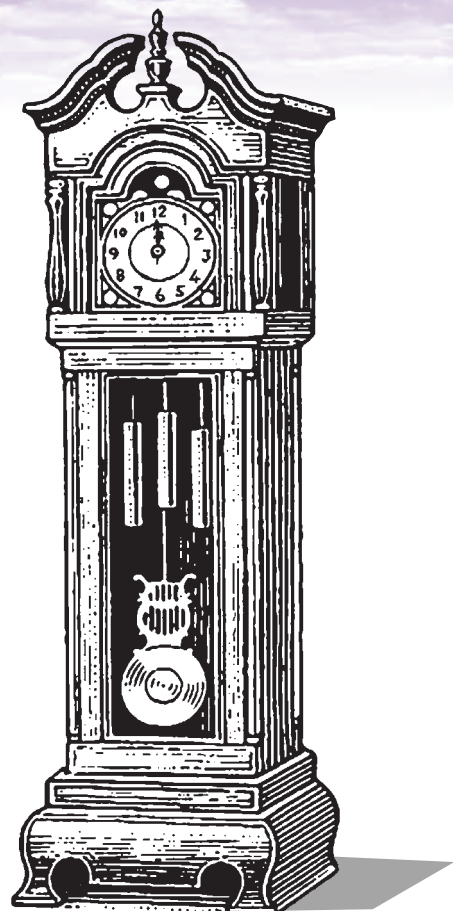
We all accept the measurement of time in seconds, minutes, hours and days and so on without much thought other than we always seem to be short of it to fulfill all our daily intentions. Keeping time is necessary for order in our civilized world to facilitate transport systems, communications, business and commercial activities and social and leisure events.

It seems to be a fact that as we grow older time seems to go by more quickly, even when one is freed of the constraints of earlier years.

That midnight hour as we move from the old to the new has always had a special fascination for me particularly through the gathering of people for Watchnight Services (which may or may not continue to be held in your part of the world). The need to look back on the events of the lives

of individuals, a congregation and wider communities - to reflect on the secular and religious celebrations of Advent, Christmas and the remaining Christmas season - to give thanks for all that has been shared and to recognize the continuing love of God through the years. To have shared the hopes and fears, the aspirations which have brought success and failure, gain and loss along with the recognition of the reality of life.

So the last minutes before midnight as they tick by bringing a time of prayer of thanksgiving and then the quietness of the seconds that seem longer than at any other time. The realization that we have no control over the passage of time as clocks strike, church bells ring, revelers greet one another (and more recently fireworks rise) heralding the beginning of a New Year. Silent prayer is broken by the reading of the Watchwords for another New Year followed by the realization that a year has past beyond recall offering a new beginning to everyone, those gathered in church or chapel, those keeping watch in a host of other familiar settings, all united by that dynamic passing of time. The ideal moment to reflect, to declare best intentions, to articulate hopes for the future as numerous as



the stars in a cloudless night sky. There is a sense of awe as churchgoers, party goers, revelers and others return to their homes. There is a unique once a year experience for everyone if they pause and reflect on that unseen spiritual dimension of time which carries all of God's creation forward to the future.

As we gather momentum to face and participate in daily routines let us not lose the joy that comes with the celebration of each New Year, the expressions of hope, the certainty of God's love for the whole of creation as the stirrings of our hearts and minds renew our calling to be followers of Christ.

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Swindon's Operation Christmas Child 2011



Sr. Sue Webb is second from the left

Each year the Moravian Church in Dixon Street acts as the Swindon depot for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child "shoebox" appeal. The premises are used as a collection centre and all the boxes are checked in order to ensure the contents are appropriate and suitable for custom purposes in the receiving country. They are then sealed, transported to a large warehouse in Melksham where the boxes are transferred to lorries and sent to their final destination. People can choose to put together a box for a boy or a girl in one of three age ranges: two to four, five to nine, or ten to fourteen. The boxes contain toys, toiletries, stationery, hats, gloves, and various other treasures and may be the only gifts the children receive.

Samaritan's Purse is a Christian relief and development charity working among communities in need in 18 countries across Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. They work with local partners - including churches, schools, orphanages and other non- governmental organisations - to identify some of the neediest children in a given country who are to receive the shoeboxes. The local partners then arrange distribution to the children they have identified. Shoeboxes are given to children who are victims of poverty, war, disease, or natural disaster on the basis of need alone.

Sr. Sue Webb has run the depot at Swindon for seven years. The congregation, helped by donations from Tytherton,

Little Scamps (a mums and tots group), and 12th Swindon Beavers contribute hundreds of boxes. The congregation prepare and make items for the boxes at a weekly Shoe Box "Chat and Do" Craft Club which runs from May to November. There's also a loyal team of checkers who work hard throughout October and November. It's a fantastic effort by the whole congregation and brings the church to the attention of the residents of Swindon, as schools, individuals and other organisations drop off their shoeboxes. In 2011 over 3000 boxes were sent from Swindon to lighten the lives of children across the world.

In recognition of her work Sr. Webb was chosen as one of twelve women by Swindon Churches Together to receive a very special gift donated by McArthurGlen. The company arranged for the ladies to be clothed in stylish outfits to attend the Ladies Day at Bath Race Course in August 2011. As well as the racing, they enjoyed a firework display and were wined and dined before being brought back to Swindon. They were also allowed to keep their new clothes as a gift and a reminder of a very special day.

A new year brings new challenges and it won't be long before the congregation is thinking and planning ahead for Operation Christmas Child 2012 to see if they can top last year's number of shoeboxes!

A word from the Editor

In November 2011, the International Energy Agency launched its latest edition of the World Energy Outlook suggesting that unless there is a change in policy direction in the next few years, the world will lock itself into an insecure, inefficient and high-carbon energy system. This may also fail to meet the agreed targets to limit the effects of climate change. Whilst there is still time to act the window of opportunity is closing.

"Growth, prosperity and rising population will inevitably push up energy needs over the coming decades. But we cannot continue to rely on insecure and environmentally unsustainable uses of energy," said IEA Executive Director Maria van der Hoeven. "Governments need to introduce stronger measures to drive investment in efficient and low-carbon technologies. The Fukushima nuclear accident, the turmoil in parts of the Middle East and North Africa and a sharp rebound in energy demand in 2010 which pushed CO₂ emissions to a record high, highlight the urgency and scale of the challenge."

The UN climate negotiations in December agreed to start work on a new legally binding treaty to cut

greenhouse gases to be decided by 2015 and to come into force by 2020. Whilst nations have something to work towards, it is hardly the sense of urgency that the IEA outlook suggests, especially when combined with Canada's withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol. As the climate talks were coming to an end in Durban, I attended a performance of Handel's Messiah in Hereford Cathedral and lines from Psalm 2 kept coming to mind:

"Why do the nations conspire, and the people plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and his anointed..."

We are all called to act as stewards of God's creation. Stewardship embodies the concept of responsible management. In this world we share together, is it a naive wish for all people to live with dignity and in safety? If we choose not to act to counter the man-made causes of climate change, people will die as a direct consequence in the coming decades. We have yet another opportunity this year to make a difference, let us pray the world's leaders will act decisively. Happy New Year!



Irish District Youth Calendar 2012

- 26 February: [Summer Camp Sunday]
- 10 March: [Irish District Conference (Youth Report)]
- 14 April: [Summer Camp Taster Day]
- 7 May: [Belfast Marathon]
- 8-11 June: [Synod (Youth Reps)]
- 17 June: [Joint Gracehill and ID Youth Service]
- 7-17 Aug: [Trip to Germany]
- 18-25 Aug: [Summer Camp]
- Aug: [Embrace Ballysillan]
- 5-7 October: [Cultra Youth Weekend]
- 27 October: [Irish District Conference (Youth Report)]
- December: [Game Marathon & Christmas outing]
- 1 December: [ID Youth Advent Service]

We would be delighted if you could join us for any of the above events. Please contact a member of the Irish District Youth Committee or Paul Holdsworth for further details.

Don't forget Lock-Up Youth Club!
Every 2nd & 4th Sunday @ Kilwarlin!



18+ Weekend in Northern Ireland

In November we held our 3rd over 18s weekend in Northern Ireland. The weekend began on Friday evening with the group meeting and sharing some pizzas. Just after midnight we embarked upon 'Nightreach' serving tea, coffee and biscuits to almost 100 people, in Belfast! Finishing just after 2am, we retired for the night in University Road's Church hall.

On Saturday morning the group were woken to the smell of an Ulster fry cooked by Lynsey Kernohan and Patsy Holdsworth (see picture!). Br Paul Holdsworth then led the group in a 'Simpsons' bible study, which resulted in very thought provoking conversations. We helped set up the Church Hall for a christening that was taking place the next day, before setting off for the Christmas markets in Belfast. We enjoyed more fellowship on Saturday evening and also attended the Christening of Jack Goodall on Sunday.

While numbers were lower than previous weekends, we were certainly busy. We had the opportunity to share in fellowship and catch up with old friends.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Dale Kernohan



18+ Weekend in Bradford 2nd-4th March

Eleanor Hollindrake is organising this weekend for young Moravians over 18. Here is her notice.

'Hi all!

I am very excited to announce that there will be an over 18's weekend taking place in Bradford on 2nd - 4th March 2012. We will be staying in the brand new Culture Fusion Hostel in Bradford City Centre (I visited this weekend and it looks brilliant and has full disabled access). The cost of the weekend will be £30 (this includes accommodation and meals) but you will need some money for Saturday night when we will be going out for a curry (not included in the price) and then probably to a pub.

The focus of the weekend will be on multi-faith communities. On Friday evening people will arrive and we'll catch up and get to know each other at the hostel (which has a cafe and games room as well as our own private area). On Saturday we will travel around several local places of worship belonging to different faiths. That evening we will go out for a famous Bradford curry (but there will be an option for anyone who really dislikes curry). And finally on Sunday we will attend Little Horton Moravian Church.

For more information or to show your interest contact me at eleanor.hollindrake@hotmail.co.uk

Places are limited so to secure yours send £30 to Elisabeth Hollindrake, 81 Poplar Grove, Bradford, BD7 4LL (cheques should be made payable to Moravian Union INC)

Summer Camp 2012

Dates: 18-25th August

Venue: Fulneck, Yorkshire

Cost: £250 - £30 discount for early booking

Forms will be available mid January and sent to all previous campers. If you need one contact Joy on youth@moravian.org.uk or your minister or Junior Church leader

Spread the word and lets have a full camp!

Thank you! Richard Ingham

After serving the Moravian Church for over 42 years, Richard and Gillian Ingham will move to Fulneck where generations of Richard's family worshipped in the Moravian church. Their retirement home is five doors from the house where he was born on 29th January 1947. A full circle!

After Pudsey Greenside Primary, Richard attended Fulneck Boys' School; offered and was accepted for the ministry in 1965 whilst still at school, joining David Hudston and the late Mike Smith and David Dickinson for training in Northern Congregational College.

In 1969, his final 'Moravian' year was in Tanzania. The government allowed space in the school timetable for religious instruction but the church provided the teachers; Richard was responsible for organizing them in addition to teaching, and at the same time learning Swahili. He returned briefly to England for his marriage with Gillian (nee Parker) in Fairfield in May 1970; was ordained by Bishop Teofilo Kisanji in Tabora (the first white Moravian minister ordained by an African Bishop) and became minister of Moria, Tabora's third and newly opened Moravian church, as well as continuing in education work. Richard and Gillian's eldest child, Jane, was born in the Moravian Hospital Sikonge in 1972.

They returned to England in 1973 and Richard served in Bedford Queen's Park and Kimbolton from 1973 - 1976, and Sarah and Hannah were born.

Gracehill followed from 1976 - 1993, where Emma and Peter joined the family. Joe and I met teen-age Richard in Summer School c1964, little knowing that he and Gillian would become friends and colleagues in the Irish district

for 17 years; I remember events in his ministry. He was instrumental in having the district archives copied by the Public Records Office, delivering and collecting small batches at a time. Preparing for and taking part in District Youth events - Holiday Specials, Youth week-ends at Corrymeela and Whitepark Bay, Sunday school teachers' conferences; escorting (often on his own) groups of young people to Summer School, in the early days by boat and train via Scotland. The Gracehill Girls' and Boys' Brigades were formed (and continue today) Youth Club and Youth Fellowship began; with volunteer help from the congregation, a new floor was installed in the church and the interior of the old Sunday school remodelled. As chairman of the Governors of the Primary School for 17 years, he refused to endorse its removal to Ballymena; it continues in new premises today and with the church is very much at the heart of the village. I remember the Songs of Praise broadcast and so I could go on... 1987 was a time of great anxiety for Richard and Gillian and the Irish District when he had surgery for a brain aneurysm, thankfully successful and after some months he returned to work.

Dukinfield and Moss Side were his charges from 1993 - 2003 and Fairfield from 2003 until retirement.

We thank Richard and Gillian for their ministry and wish them a long and happy retirement.

Edna Cooper



Letters to the Editor

Dear Sr Editor,

I was interested to read Br Richard Ingham's letter (November 2011), on some symbols of our faith and our traditions.

Can I also add - the forest of crosses which have appeared in our churches over the years. The problem is that when a zealous member suggests a cross "to show that we're Christians", or "to show the community who we are", or "the cross is central to our faith", it's really difficult to come up with a reason why we shouldn't, apart from the rather weak argument that it's not Moravian tradition.

The cross which appears is usually wholly out of proportion to the building, often hanging like a sword of Damocles over the worship leader, and creating an visual draw unintended by the builder, and a rather menacing extra presence during worship. It seems to me to be firstly, a sort of glorification of one of the symbols of our religion, and secondly, part of a megaphone evangelism - no-one is listening to our message so we'll shout it LOUDER, and we'll put up a full on, in your face CROSS - that'll bring them in!

Yours sincerely
Naomi Hancock

Dear Friends of Elim Home,

There is a song which goes "it takes so long to say goodbye." I have been practising how to say goodbye for the past year and now the moment has arrived, I am at a loss for words.

Looking back over the past 11 years and 9 months I have a lot to celebrate. I can celebrate God's goodness, faithfulness and mercy ALL the time, even if I wasn't always aware of it. When I started in March 2000, we had a staff compliment of 38, today we have 62 staff members. Our income in March 2001 was R 1.11 million, at the end of the financial year March 2011, our income was R 4.38 million.

In 2000, our work was based solely at Elim Home, but today we have: Elim Home, Homebased care, Parent Support Group in Gansby/Stanford and the Hydroponics. We have had the building renovated to meet the needs of our residents and the staff. Our fleet of vehicles has not increased but they have improved.

I would be shortsighted and inconsiderate if I do not recognise and acknowledge the work my predecessors did so that I could continue to build on the foundations they laid. I want to thank them and salute them for the work they have done to make my term of office easier.

The 31st December 2011, marks the end of my career as a professional nurse of 40 years duration and having spent 11 years as director of Elim Home, I want to thank you for playing such an important part in Elim Home's life. Your contributions have made it possible to achieve all that we have.

It is my prayer that you will continue to support Elim Home.
Yours in Christ
Cecilia Engel

GRANDSTAND VIEW

Vision...

When Alf Ramsay took up the position of manager of the England football team in May 1963 (having been appointed on October 1962), he shook the footballing world by announcing that England would win the next World Cup tournament, which was to take place in England in 1966.

Ramsay clearly had a vision of what he could achieve; in May 1963 not many people shared that vision, and most laughed at what was perceived as his arrogance.

But we all know what happened. His vision brought about a plan of campaign, with many controversial moments, resulting in that memorable occasion at Wembley on 30th July 1966.

I remember the tournament well, watching the excellent TV coverage and seeing all these footballers from around the globe "strutting their stuff" on some of England's top football grounds. There was a bit of panic, though, about the last week of the tournament. This was the same week as the Moravian Summer Schools, being held as usual (in those days) at Ockbrook. I would miss the semi-final match against Portugal; and if England won, would I get home to Swindon in time to watch the final?

On the first matter, I need not have worried. With Bob Burd on the staff at Summer School, how could we miss out?

He arranged for the hire of a large TV for the evening, and we all sat in the dining room and watched the action unfold.

And similarly with getting home to the final - my Dad and Mum wouldn't miss the final, so they were up to Ockbrook earlier than usual to collect me and drive back to Swindon in good time for the kick-off.

And after 120 minutes of good cup-tie football, Alf Ramsey's vision was fulfilled.

He managed it by skilfully managing his chosen players; amongst whom he had two who were truly great: the two Bobby's, Charlton and Moore. These two, with willing "workhorses" alongside them, took England through the tournament.

Alf Ramsay had a vision; but Bobby Charlton and Bobby Moore had vision.

Having a vision is seeing what could be achieved; having vision is seeing how to achieve it.

Bobby Charlton and Booby Moore could see opportunities for passes that ordinary players would never see. They would in an instant weigh up the opportunities and options before them in the course of play, and instinctively know what to do. With Charlton, it could be whether to play a glorious cross-field pass, or to thump the ball into the net from 30 yards.



Bobby Moore was perhaps even more visionary. There were two moments in that World Cup final where this showed. The first was for Geoff Hurst's first goal (to equalize the scores at 1-1); Moore saw a run from Hurst that nobody else saw, and drifted a superb free-kick right onto his head. Goal! What vision.

The second was in the closing minutes of extra-time. West Germany were pressing hard for an equalizer (England were leading 3-2 at this stage). The ball rolled out to the edge of the England penalty area. You could see Jack Charlton screaming at Moore to clear the ball into Row Z of the stand (something Jack was very good at); but that was not for Bobby. Head up, ball under control, looking for better options. Again he saw the ever-willing Hurst making a run a good fifty yards ahead of him. This is what vision is all about - seeing what's on, and taking the best option. Another dream pass, and "some people are on the pitch - they think it's all over - it is now!"

"Vision" as opposed to "a vision" - we mere mortals often experience the latter, along with dreams of what might be (Joel 2:28); but the truly great among us have vision, who see what opportunities there are and uncannily find the best one.

We stand at the beginning of a new year. As a church we need to be seeking out all the opportunities for mission and witness; and there are so many if we but look.

The task then is to find men and women with vision to find the best ways forward for us in provincial and congregation life so that we can move onwards and upwards. We ask and pray that God may give us such people, and that he will give the rest of us the discernment to recognize them when they come to the fore.

Enjoy a great sporting Olympic year of 2012.

David Newman

david.newman@moravian.org.uk

Around the District Conferences

NOTES FROM PEC

UNITY:

Br. Hopcroft attended the Unity Mission and Development Board meetings in Dar Es Salaam from September 20th - 23rd. The meeting was convened to discuss major policy changes in the way in which Mission Agencies and recipient Provinces distribute funds, and with the increase in Mission Provinces, how support can be given to the emerging and growing work of the Moravian Church.

Br. Hopcroft and Br. Bottler met with representatives of the Czech Province and the Czech Unity Undertaking in Prague on November 17th in an attempt to bring the two parties closer together.

PROVINCIAL:

During the summer there have been a number of calls and all the moves have gone well. Please remember all these sisters and brothers in your prayers as they each settle into new circumstances as they continue to serve the Lord.

Ministry Provision:

Although there are currently 3 students in training and 2 supervised ministers serving in the Yorkshire District this means we are only just keeping up with retirements.

At present Dukinfield and Moss Side are in Interregnum and at the end of January 2012 Fairfield will be without a minister.

Four Congregations in the Yorkshire District are currently being served by supervised ministers, not yet Ordained, which means that they require sacramental cover.

The Yorkshire and Lancashire District ministers, both serving and

retired have agreed to work together to plan cover for both districts through until after Easter 2012.

For those congregations who have not already done so, the Provincial Board would encourage you to elect a Congregation Secretary and to send details to Church House. Sr. Judith Ashton has indicated that she will stand down as Editor of the Moravian Messenger at Synod 2012 and we would ask you to give some thought as to who might be willing to take on this important role in the months ahead.

Provincial Dates:

The Provincial Board and the European Province Provincial Board will meet from

January 23rd - 26th 2012.

The Serving Ministers' Retreat will take place at Sarum on 19th - 22nd March 2012.

Provincial Synod will take place at Swanwick from 8th - 11th June 2012.

The Lay Training weekend has been booked for 12th - 14th October 2012.

South Asia:

Moravian Institute, Rajpur

The new Girls' Dormitory was officially opened at the end of October and Br. Hopcroft attended.

Sr. Maureen Colbert, a member of the Horton Congregation taught at the Institute for a number of months. She has volunteered to spend a year in South Asia and will be helping out in the school in Kathmandu from January.

The institute requires a new 4-wheel drive vehicle and an application for a grant has been made.

Nepal

The work in Kathmandu is continuing to grow and a Pre-school has been purchased as a new venture for Vani and Shanti Pradhan. There are still difficulties in acquiring permanent premises in Kathmandu for the congregation and the only solution seems to be the purchase of land and property that will be very expensive.

An application to the MCF has been made to enable the congregation to at least purchase a plot of land.

The congregation in Kokhana has built a new church building, which incorporates a new Sunday school room, continues to flourish and grow.

Assam

The congregation has built a new church on the campus. This is a bamboo structure which is not intended as a permanent home but it gives far more space than the room in the school which has been used until now.

The school building is now in very poor condition and plans are being made to erect a new building in the near future.

Ladakh:

The schools at Leh, Kahaltse and Matho are operating well as are the congregations at Leh, Shey and Khalatse.

The recovery from the flood last autumn has been good. The Province raised £6,000 a further grant of £6,000 was received from the MCF. This money has been used to purchase blankets, kitchen utensils and winter food for those most affected and the remainder of the money is being used to pay school fees for those children whose parents lost their winter wheat crop because of the deluge.

Br. Hopcroft visited Leh at the end of October.

LANCASHIRE DISTRICT

Conference met at Salem on Saturday 8th October.

Reports from the congregations of the Lancashire District, namely Fairfield, Dukinfield, Royton, Salem and Moss Side were discussed. We were sorry to hear from Sr Kath Tait that she expects the Moss Side Society to close after the Christmas services. This is because she and her husband are moving back to the West Indies in the New Year. The few other members of the congregation all attend other churches and so it seems sensible to call an end to the Moravian involvement in Moss Side.

The Dukinfield report stated that they were grateful to Br John Wilkinson for stepping into the role of minister during the interregnum.

In Royton and Salem, Br James Woolford, student minister, has started a two-year placement and he will be concentrating his efforts on community services within the area.

A reunion service has been held at Salem for ex-members of the congregation. A display of photographs and memorabilia was on display and refreshments were served. This proved to be a very successful venture that attracted double the numbers at the service. They are also hoping to run a special service for the community at Royton where different community groups can advertise their work.

Youth and Mission Representatives - Due to Br and Sr McIlwaine's move to Sparkhill and Leominster, the position of Youth Secretary has become vacant. Br Ben Cooper of Fairfield has been approached and would be willing to take on this role.

MIDLANDS DISTRICT

The Conference met on Saturday, October 15th at Leicester. Br. David Howarth led the opening devotions and warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting. Next came the elections and here some changes took place - Br. David Howarth is the Chairman, Br. Mark Dixon is the Minutes Secretary and Youth Representative, Sr. Joan Marson the Treasurer, Br Fred Linyard the Social Responsibility Secretary and Br. Victor Launder remains the Messenger Correspondent. Br. Howarth thanked those who were taking up their new positions and those who had served and now resigned.

The Financial Report was given and the balance stands at £83.00. The Provincial Youth and Children's Report was presented by Br. Mark Dixon, he

This was put to the vote and Br Cooper was unanimously voted to the position of Youth Secretary. The vacant position of Mission and Renewal Secretary will be discussed at the next meeting in March 2012.

Br Cooper recapped on the calls that were received during the summer months and it was noted that three serving ministers had either retired or would do shortly. We may seem to be in a fortunate position with three students currently in training for the ministry, but once they are qualified, they will only replace the ministers recently retired. A fund of £100,000 has been transferred from the general fund into the Ministerial Training account to ensure that sufficient funds are available when others heed the call to serve. A meeting has been held with the retired members of the ministry in the Lancashire and Yorkshire districts in an attempt to organise sacramental cover until Easter 2012, and thanks were offered for their cooperation and assistance.

The Provincial Board is encouraging all congregations to elect a Congregation Secretary so that there is a point of contact in congregations without a minister or for those having to share.

Br David Bull is designing a new unity website for the Moravian Church that will cover the worldwide church. He is also designing a completely new Provincial website.

News from South Asia included the opening of a new Girls' Dormitory at the Moravian Institute in Rajpur to which Br Hopcroft has been invited. Sr Maureen Colbert from the Horton Congregation is currently teaching at

mentioned that Summer Camp had been successful once more with 56 young people and 17 leaders attending. Congregation support is needed to give young people in the District a chance to attend Summer Camp. The Moravian was held in N. Ireland with the theme "no man is an island" and was also successful. Two young people will also be attending Synod in 2012 to give young people a voice. A discussion was held on fellowship activities within the District and it was agreed that a service should be held at Leicester in 2012.

Members were invited to report news from the congregations. In Leicester there are presently no Sunday schoolteachers. The age profile of the congregation requested by the PEC flagged up that there is no-one

the Institute and has volunteered to spend a year in South Asia. It was heartening to see that it is not only ministers who take up calls to work for the Church overseas.

Br John Wilkinson gave a report on the Social Responsibility Committee. He reported that the committee had adopted The Stewardship of Creation as a major theme via consideration of green issues, such as the promotion of recycling and encouraging reflection on the sustenance of God's creation at Harvest Thanksgiving. Br Wilkinson was pleased to note Royton's commitment to the local community via a letting project to civic organisations and urged other churches to do likewise. He added that there is a continuing need for us all to review issues of social responsibility to ensure that our pastoral responses are appropriate to the needs of our people.

Even though April 2012 will be a very busy month, it was decided to go ahead with the Lancashire District Quiet Day at Fairfield on Saturday 28th April. Please make a note in your diaries. This event will be held in the College between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Attendees are requested to bring their own lunch and drinks will be provided.

The committee took the opportunity to express our thanks to Br Richard Ingham for his contribution to the LDC and we wished him well for his impending retirement at the end of January 2012.

Sue Selby

under the age of 40. In Leominster, the Busy Fingers sewing group continues and is making contact with a similar group in Makkovik. The age profile has shown that there is only one member under the age of 75. At Ockbrook repairs have been made to various properties within the Settlement. The age profile shows that there is an even spread among the ages. At Sparkhill work with the Methodist Church continues and the Elders and the Methodist team meet every month, following their individual meetings. Work has started on a sharing agreement between the two congregations.

The Spring District Conference meeting will be held at Leominster on 3rd March 2012.

Victor Launder

Br. Paul Holdsworth begins the first of a series of articles looking at Provincial committees:

The Provincial Youth and Children's Committee

Recently I was asked to write a piece about the work of the Provincial Youth and Children's Committee and what we do in the province and around the districts. There is not enough room to give a full account of everything that the PYCC has responsibility for, but I will do my best in the space that I have been given. I have served on the Provincial Youth Committee for over twelve years now and, as you can imagine, I have seen some changes during that time, and not just the volunteers who have given up their time to attend meetings and help the committee to function.

Members of the committee are still elected at District Conferences, in order to maintain a local context to our efforts and the Committee meets three times a year throughout the six districts. However, instead of working with the Provincial Youth Secretary of old we now have a new system. The arrival of Sheila Mitchell as the new Provincial Youth and Children's Officer was one of the first major impacts and the work that she did and that Joy Raynor continued has changed the face of youth work throughout this province. It has been, and still is a hard task to implement all the various aspects of the Children's Act and the reams of Child Protection material that has come out over the last decade or so. Without this work of the Provincial Youth and Children's Officers, the PEC and the various members of the PYCC it would have been very difficult for this province to keep in line with what was needed of us and we would not have been able to function within the rapidly changing rules and regulations. Without the training sessions and information sharing run by the PYCC and the Youth Offices the province would be way behind and deficient with regard to child protection matters.

In addition to this, members of the committee exchange and share information about what is going on within individual congregations and districts, so that good ideas can be tried in other places and contexts, as well as the best way to carry them out. On many occasions an event that has worked in one district has been successfully exported to another district, such as the 18+ Weekends or District Youth Services. There is also Summer Camp, which

some people erroneously believe is the only thing that PYCC deals with. Yes, it is true that the PYCC appoint the three leaders, set the time and venue, discuss fundraising and assist in any way that the PYCC members can with the smooth running of Summer Camp, but I can assure you that this is a relatively small part of the work that we do as a Provincial Committee. I should know for I have taken the minutes for years and Summer camp only takes up one paragraph of up to three pages of minutes that I usually end up writing!

There are also the other special events that the PYCC discusses and helps to plan, such as the very successful Moravians that have been hosted in England and most recently in Northern Ireland. PYCC is the conduit that the Children and Youth Officer uses to report back from the various international and ecumenical youth meetings that they attend on behalf of the Moravian Church. For instance, there are regular meetings of European Moravian Youth Leaders and reports come back to PYCC, so that we can better take part in international events, such as the German/Irish District events that Br. Philip Beattie has organised for us. Br. Paul Greenhough also attends meetings in order to keep us briefed about Young Peoples' Missionary Association so that we can assist with projects and establish joint fundraising efforts, such as the PYCC/YPMA efforts on behalf of Binnikandi, Elim Home and Star Mountain over the last few years.

The PYCC also helps to make available and distribute literature, worship material and other resources that the Youth and Children's Officer collects and collates for the province. The PYCC, along with the PEC, are bodies to which the Youth and Children's Office can report the work that they do, from the creation of Newsletters to Training Days. As I see it the PYCC functions best when it can operate as it was always intended, with members from each of the districts coming together in order to strive together and share together so that youth and children's work can meet its full potential throughout the whole of the British Province.

Open Book

2nd TIMOTHY

The emperor Nero is probably most famous for burning the city of Rome. He did it because he liked building and decided that the city needed a new design. But the population was not very pleased at what had happened so that Nero looked about for someone to blame and made it known that the Christians were responsible. Paul had been a prisoner in Rome but had been released eventually and was not actually in Rome when the city burned. But he was a very important leader in the church and one theory is that he was arrested in the city of Troas and brought back to Rome as a prisoner again and that this second letter to Timothy was written from prison where he awaited execution. Certainly Paul felt that the end of his earthly life was not far off. In chapter 4 verses 6 to 8 he wrote, "The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but to all who have loved his appearing." This is followed by a request that Timothy should come and see him as soon as possible.

But the letter is not one of doom and gloom. It opens on a note of gratitude: gratitude to God for the privilege and responsibility of being an apostle and gratitude for having known Timothy and his mother and his grandmother, all of whom are examples of sincere faith. He witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus who abolished death and brought immortality to light through the gospel and appointed him to be a preacher, an apostle and a teacher. An apostle is someone who is sent out, a messenger, and Paul was very conscious of this part of his calling. It also had a more restricted meaning, 'membership of the apostolic circle' and it may be that he used it here because there were those who questioned his authority. He mentions it in almost every letter attributed to him. In chapter 2 verses 11 to 13 it is believed that a part, or possibly the whole, of a very early Christian creed has been preserved. The need to have such an authoritative statement is demonstrated in the verses which follow and which tell of quarrels and

misleading teachings being present among the early converts. But Paul urges Timothy to be gentle with those who are causing confusion as he endeavours to guide them or 'lead them to a knowledge of the truth.' Another theory is that verses 11 to 13 may be an early hymn.

Chapter 3 opens with an account of what human society will be like in the last days. It begins with a description of what will be happening in the future but by verse 6 the present tense is used, which gives the impression that the last days are not that far away from the age in which Paul was living. The evils listed are characteristic of the Gnostic heresy which is mentioned elsewhere in Paul's writings. They are also not very different from human behaviour in some societies in our own day, which has led many to conclude that the last days are not that far away. The truth

" I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH..."

is that humanity tends to revert to this kind of behaviour under certain circumstances and has done so repeatedly in the past and on those occasions many have come to the conclusion that the end is nigh. Jannes and Jambres are mentioned in verse 8. The names don't occur anywhere else in the Bible but according to Hebrew tradition, these are the names of Pharaoh's magicians whose activities are recorded in the book of Exodus chapter 7.

Paul draws attention to his own life and conduct in verse 10 and encourages Timothy to continue following them. In addition to teaching, conduct and aim in life and the virtues of faith, patience, love etc: the list includes the persecutions that he underwent in various places and which Timothy may well have witnessed as a young man. Attention is drawn not only to Paul's endurance under affliction but also to the fact that the

Lord delivered him from them. Paul then draws Timothy's attention to days gone by and that he has been acquainted with the 'sacred writings' from his youth. Perhaps he learned to read from them and these writings may have included sacred books other than the Scriptures because 'all Scripture' is mentioned separately in the following verse and would mean the Old Testament at that time since the new one hadn't been invented yet. 'Breathed out by God' is open to interpretation and has been the subject of controversy ever since the 18th century when various theologians proclaimed their different theories as to how the Scriptures must be understood.

Chapter 4 may be described as Paul's farewell message in which he encourages Timothy to keep the faith in spite of a great deal of opposition in verse 2 are as applicable to Christian ministers today as they were then. Preach the Word, be at the ready all the time, reprove, rebuke and encourage. The closing verses are interesting because they tell of people who have been both a help and a hindrance in proclaiming the Gospel. Although conscious of his approaching end, Paul requests Timothy to bring with him the cloak, the books and the parchments that he left in Troas, probably when he left in a hurry after being arrested and brought to Rome. The letter closes with greetings from fellow believers such as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, Eubulus and all the brothers, people who were known in the early church and who were in Rome at the time but who otherwise don't figure very prominently in the New Testament. There is a tradition that Claudia and Pudens were husband and wife, and that Claudia was British! The term 'brothers' in this context can mean siblings and can refer to brothers and sisters in God's family. Undoubtedly people like this were comforting Paul and keeping him company in his old age and during his time in prison. The closing words, 'The Lord be with your spirit, Grace be with you' are still used today in many branches of the Christian church as part of the regular liturgy, a link with the very early followers of Jesus.

Peter Gubi

Congregation News

Baildon Congregation

The summer months in Baildon were spent with the rumble once again of removal vans going to and fro from the manse! Michael, Claire, Daniel and Ethan Newman, on receiving a call to Fulneck and Gomersal, moved out in mid-August. The weekend before we held a congregation supper for the family to say thank you for all they have done for us over the past 4 years. We will miss them and hope they are happy in their new home. It has been a joy to see Daniel and Ethan grow from little boys to quite big boys now! As a lay preacher I will definitely miss their great acting skills in my children's addresses! Michael has started several new ventures in his short time here; the Big Breakfast, The Together Group and has set up a new Pastoral team, all of which we aim to continue with in the future. And last but not least, Claire has been active as a junior church leader, a member of the social committee and of course, Santa's Elf! Who can now take on that role?

Hot on their heels were the Purnell family and all their livestock who moved in at the beginning of September. The livestock, 2 geese, 3 ducks and 7 hens and a cockerel seem very settled and are lovely to see in their quite luxurious quarters, built by Jamie Purnell! We got our first chance to welcome the family, Derrick, Anita, Jamie and Miranda, at the congregation barbecue on the evening of 10th September. This followed a full day in the church grounds and hall, as we provided church tours, coffee and cake and a sausage sizzle as we joined in the Baildon-wide Scarecrow Walk. Hundreds of scarecrows in various costumes were to be seen all over the village and this included some in our Burial Ground. It was a great day and thanks to all who put in such hard work.

Derrick's welcome service was on 12th September led

by Br Kenneth Evans and we welcomed brothers and sisters from our sister church, Horton as well as from all over the district and ecumenical visitors, to that service and to refreshments afterwards.

Derrick's first service as our minister was Harvest Festival where he was helped by the Gomersal Hands of Faith Puppet Group (Srs.Lorraine Shorten, Angela Horsfall and Grace Shorten). The church was as usual beautifully adorned and the service was followed by Harvest lunch. Everyone enjoyed all aspects of the Harvest and many thanks to all who helped in any way; anyone who has not seen the Puppet Group, is missing a treat!

We welcomed Sr. Jackie Morten as our preacher for Church anniversary at the end of September and she and Br. Derrick shared the Lovefeast and Cup of Covenant service in the evening to which we welcomed members from other denominations in Baildon.

One event that took place in the summer and before all the moves in our district was the District Relay Run. The brainchild of Sr Sarah Groves and Br Michael Newman, this was a great success with members from all congregations running a relay from church to church and raising money in the process! Br Michael, Brs Gordon France, Andrew Wriglesworth and Sr Vivien Wriglesworth represented Baildon and the camaraderie and support on the day was fantastic. Well done to all!

We look forward to the months ahead with our new minister Br Derrick Purnell, hoping he and his family will be really happy here.

Ruth France

Tytherton

'Tea on the Lawn' has become an annual event and is well supported locally. Unfortunately the weather in August last year was unsettled and we were glad to have the option of holding it in the nearby Village Hall. In appreciation of this the proceeds were given to the Village Hall Trustees.

Another August event was the MWA Service when we were glad to have Rev. Ursula Grey, a retired Anglican vicar, as our speaker. MWA members from Swindon joined us and the service was well attended. Coffee followed and then the Malmesbury ladies returned to Malmesbury to have lunch together and Rev. Ursula joined them as their guest.

Harvest Thanksgiving was on September 18th and we

were delighted to welcome back our former minister Br. Thom Stapleton. The church was beautifully decorated with fruit vegetables, flowers and sheaves of corn. The customary lavish tea followed.

The circulation of our minister's monthly newsletter, 'Sharing Times' is ever increasing. In addition a newsletter for the village entitled 'The Only Church In The Village' is produced occasionally and every household receives a copy. There has been some response with occasional attendance at services. We hope and pray this may continue.

May I wish you all a peaceful and happy New Year!

Joyce Mellows

Fetter Lane, London

In July our barbecue and music festival was a great success. It was a golden day weather-wise and the music was excellent. We had a Latin band, Tanzanian choir and various soloists - it really did put 'a spring in our step'.

Summer Camp in August was attended by Br. Edwin and Sr. Cassie as staff members, and by Rianna, Rebekah, and Benjamin Quildan as young Moravians eager to learn about their faith. Also in August two youngsters were baptised, baby Naima Ariea Flemmings, and 5 year old Raoul Sandile Kemp. Both children were well supported by families and friends.

September was the beginning of a sad period in our lives. Three long serving members - one brother and two sisters who for the past three years were all housebound - died. The first, Br. Leonard Walker died on September 1st. His Christian faith had been nurtured at Newfield Moravian Church, Antigua. Moving to Britain, his love for Fetter Lane, started in the 1960's and grew strong particularly when he was given responsibility for God's Acre. His ashes are now interred there. He will also be remembered as a committed member of the Men's Fellowship.

The second death was that of Sr. Valerie Barker on 22nd September. She was born at Beterverwachting village on the east coast of what was then British Guiana. Her father, Henry William Grant, was a Moravian minister whose life and work was her inspiration throughout her own life. She

left Guyana for England at the end of 1953. By this time she was married with four children, Colin, Geoffrey, Maureen and Claire. It was then that she began to attend Fetter Lane in Chelsea - as the place she felt most at home. To her extended family drawn from Canada, USA, Denmark, Scotland and Italy, she was their most loving Aunt Val who will be sorely missed. To us, she was our sister, teacher, mentor, historian, encourager, and a most supportive member of the world-wide Moravian Church. In our MWA Circle she was the Secretary/Treasurer for many years. Her ashes were interred in God's Acre at Fetter Lane in December 2010.

The third death was that of Sr. Sylvia Wauchope (or Aunt Syl) on 4th October. She had worked tirelessly for the church, dividing her time between Railton Road Methodist Church and Fetter Lane. At the former, she taught in the Sunday school and played the piano/organ. On Communion Sundays she joined us and played her part in any social activity-attending MWA Days, coffee mornings and the annual barbecue. We thank God for their faith - a faith that did not shrink.

The Bible Study group still meets, and in September we went to the Methodist Central Hall to attend the lecture on the ecumenical significance of the King James Bible. On the 1st October we were represented at the Fellowship Day.

Monica Arthur

CONGREGATION REGISTERS

DEATH

14th Nov.	Violet Watson ☐	<i>Hornsey</i>
7th Nov.	☐ Ionie Hughes ☐	<i>Leicester</i>
6th Dec	☐ Jean Margaret Harrison , Age 75☐	<i>Baildon</i>
27th Oct	☐ Sylvester Joseph ☐	<i>Hornsey</i>
20th Dec	☐ Joyce Gubi ☐	<i>Tytherton</i>

Harlesden

We begin another New Year and it seems only months ago that we were welcoming in 2011. Rather frightening how time passes so quickly isn't it? To all Christians this should not be so, for we have been reminded in THE WORD - Isaiah 43: and reiterated by the song writer- "Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name, you are mine" says our God.

There are many preparations being made for the "big events in London - the 2012 Olympics and Para Olympics," but how many towards that GREAT DAY OF THE COMING OF OUR LORD? Perhaps this could be a good time for us Christians to work together to continue the year of Evangelism!

In August two of our congregation and one of our long standing adherents took a closer step in the faith. Sr. Vivienne Nembhard, Br. Francois Mihindou and Br. David Bent were received into membership of the Church by the right hand of fellowship. There is fulness of joy in the presence of the Lord.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and God's continued blessing for the year ahead.

Cynthia Jacobs

Provincial Diary for January

January ☐

3☐ Church House re-opens☐	
10/11☐ PEC, BMB, Unitas Estates Meetings☐	The PEC☐
18☐ Beginning of the Week of prayer for Christian Unity☐	
23-25☐ Meeting of the PEC and the Continental Province PEC☐	The PEC

February☐

1☐ Renewal Committee, Lower Wyke 10.30am☐	Sr Groves☐
7☐ PEC meeting☐	The PEC☐
13/14☐ PEC, BMB, Unitas Estates Meetings☐	The PEC☐
15☐ Provincial Youth Meeting, University Road☐	Sr Taylor☐
22☐ Faith and order Meeting including an afternoon meeting☐	Sr Groves
☐ With the Bishops and PEC members at Church House☐	
23☐ Finance Committee, Church House☐	The PEC☐
29☐ Church Service Advisory Board, Church House☐	The PEC

PRAYER NOTES

- 1st January - Mary, Mother of God (*Christian, Catholic*)
 1st January - Feast of St. Basil & The Holy Name of Jesus (*Christian, Orthodox*)
 1st January - Gantan-sai, New Years (*Shinto*)
 5th January - Twelfth Night (*Christian*)
 6th January - Epiphany (*Christian*)
 6th January - Nativity of Christ (*Armenian Orthodox*)
 7th January - Feast of the Nativity (*Orthodox Christian*)
 8th January - Baptism of Jesus (*Christian*)
 9th - 12th January - Mahayana New Year (*Buddhist*)
 15th January - World Religion Day (*Baha'i*)
 18th - 25th January - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (*Christian*)
 20th January - Timkat or Epiphany (*Ethiopian Orthodox Christian*)
 23rd January - Chinese New Year (*Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist*)
 25th January - Conversion of St. Paul (*Christian*)

A Reflection on Growing Older as the New Year Begins

*Almighty God,
 by whose mercy
 my life has continued for another year,
 I pray that, as my years increase,
 my sins may not increase.
 As age advances,
 let me become more open,
 more faithful and more trusting in you.
 Let me not be distracted by lesser things
 from what is truly important.
 And if I become infirm as I grow old,
 may I not be overwhelmed
 by self-pity or bitterness.
 Continue and increase
 your loving kindness towards me
 so that, when you finally call me to
 yourself,
 I may enter into eternal happiness with
 you,
 through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.*

(Dr Samuel Johnson, 1709-1784)

The Holy Name of Jesus

Jesus, the Holy Name, the name above all other names, with so much deep meaning and significance for each and every one of us.

Jesus, his name given to him by his Father in heaven, and passed to his mother through the ministrations of no less than an angel.

Jesus, a name brings to mind compassion, affection and love, shared with everyone that was fortunate enough to meet him.

Jesus, the name that inspires and motivates his people to worship him, work for him and witness to the Good News of his coming to the world.

Jesus, whose very name that means salvation, and who was given by grace to free us all from the sins that bind us all.

Lord, in Jesus' Holy name, we thank you...

Poem for Epiphany

How we have wandered and journeyed so far,
 Past sand dune and desert, following that star.
 Anticipation is leading the way,
 And kept us travelling day after day.

Though we don't know where this gift will appear,
 Studies have shown us that it will be near.
 Our charts showed us that it is in the west,
 Site of the birth of the best of the best.

And so we carry on far from our homes,
 Mile after mile, and wherever we roam,
 The goal ahead is worth the while,
 A child in a manger, all full of smiles.

What will we do when we find our way there?
 Give to him our gold, frankincense and myrrh.
 What will this mean to this gift from above?
 It means everything when given with our love.

Prayer for The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

*Lord, we ask you to open our eyes
 that we may value and appreciate
 all people,
 recognising what we have in
 common
 rather than focusing
 on what our differences might be.
 Inspire us to distinguish
 between what is important
 and what is not,
 and open our minds and hearts
 that we may always be people of
 good will
 who bring life and joy to others.
 Amen.*

Meditation on the Baptism of Jesus

Prepared to go to that once great river, as had so many before him, called there by a man who had come in from the wilderness in order to make a path for him.

Prepared to lower himself and allow himself to be washed and purified in the Jordan by John, a mere human, even though he was the Son of God.

Prepared to go out into the wilderness himself so that he could make himself ready to go out to the world as a teacher, preacher, healer and saviour.

Prepared to bear scorn and the plots of the Scribes and Pharisees who sought to end his life and ministry long before his ministry was complete.

Prepared to go to the cross for ours sakes, to give his life so that we might live and to go to the cold, dark tomb to bring light to the world.

Prepared to rise again on the third day, to walk and talk with his followers and then to ascend back to his Father's side to bring glory to himself.

THE MORAVIAN MESSENGER

Official Journal of the Moravian Church in the British Province. Published monthly by the authority of the Provincial Synod. Advertisements and all communications concerning distribution and supply should be sent to the Moravian Book Room, 5 Muswell Hill, London N10 3TJ, and NOT to the Editor.



Editor: Judith Ashton. Contributions for the Messenger should reach the Editor, Sunnybank, Raglan Road, Tintern, Monmouthshire NP16 6TH E-mail: judith.ashton@moravian.org.uk by the 3rd day of the preceding month.