

moravian messenger

JUNE 2018



Whitfield's original tabernacle © Br Ted Wilson

Forgive us our trespasses

whose 'architectural' drawings proved such a rich resource in our quest for Moravian buildings - some of which remain the same, some of which have been altered and some of which have now sadly disappeared.

We started in the New Room in Bristol. This, the oldest Methodist building in the world, was built by John Wesley in 1739. Today it contains a Chapel, a museum telling the story of the Wesley's and a library and archives. We had an interesting talk in the chapel by Gary Best, a Methodist historian and currently Warden of the New Room. He explained how there had originally been no pews in the chapel as the space had been used for such things as food and clothes banks. It puts one in mind of the French saying 'plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose'. We do not seem to have come so very far from those days in many things!

After a welcome coffee in the centre's cafe we heard Gary talk about John Cennick, his association with the Methodists and his relationship with the Wesley's and George Whitefield in particular. We heard that Cennick, the first layman to be used as a Methodist preacher and the deputy of George Whitefield, was upset by the dissensions

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Perhaps quite a strange title for a fact finding trip about Br John Cennick but those of you who know Sr Sarah Groves will understand that, with her, things are never quite as simple as they first might appear to be!

This experience started with an invitation to travel to Bristol and the surrounding area in search of John Cennick. Twenty of us readily took up the offer. Like the Moravians themselves our group was ecumenical in nature, consisting of Moravians, Methodists, Church of Ireland and Presbyterians. Little did we realise that, like the man of whom we sought to have a greater understanding, our journey of discovery would not always be along conventional paths. Sarah's itinerary would put us in 'trespassing mode' in different places - as witnessed by the number of curtains which twitched as we opened gates, pushed aside wire and ducked under fences!

During our journey of discovery we visited many places - the New Room, Bristol; Kingswood with its Moravian Church, the United Church on Moravian premises and Whitfield's original tabernacle; Hanham Mount; Little Sodbury; Malmesbury; East Tytherton; Maud Heath's Causeway; Kington Langley and Castle Coombe! Phew! Oh and we also had a superb Sunday lunch at Foxham Inn, Foxham.

Here are a few nuggets from a full and fulfilling journey. Before we start, however, it has to be pointed out that there was not one but two Johns with us on this journey of discovery - the man himself, John Cennick, and also John England



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Meetings - not always a waste of time!

I was coming back from a clergy breakfast meeting with my good colleague, the Catholic parish priest in Ballymena, and we were chatting about the meeting that we had just been at and the work that we had waiting for us during the day. 'I find a lot of my time is taken up in meetings', said my colleague, 'but I usually find something useful from them'. In fact, that particular morning meeting had given us both a lot to think about. The speaker, Mitch from Crown Jesus Ministries, was speaking to an ecumenical audience of people in church leadership (or church service as Moravians would prefer to call it) in Ballymena. What thrilled me about this meeting was that he recognised that the diversity of the Christian Church was an integral part of its richness and that by churches meeting together and sharing freely we encourage each other. He likened it to trees in an apple orchard where they need trees of several varieties for pollination to occur. My heart warmed to hear one of Count Zinzendorf's maxims 'Each Denomination is generally possessed of some Jewel peculiar to itself' [1]. The meeting was two hours out of my day well spent and will give me cause for reflection for a long time and a recognition that we work for the Kingdom of God not for our churches.

Other meetings are much more routine but I would argue, still worth-while: those monthly church committee meetings that we all groan about, however without them little would be accomplished in our congregations. They offer an opportunity for sharing the burden of service and ministry in a congregation and allow people to contribute their own ministries and talents. Ecumenical meetings spark ideas and help us to see how others are tackling the same issues that we face. They build relationships and help us work together for the Kingdom.

Sr Sarah Groves
Gracehill and Ballinderry



Much of the work of the Moravian Church is done by Provincial Committees. Here people who are interested in particular aspects of the churches' life and are elected by Synod meet together to plan and act on matters such as worship in the church, training ministers and lay people, Christian witness and service. Yes, the meetings take up time and involve travelling, but they do so much to build up our common life and work. Further in a church that is as scattered as ours, it provides a great opportunity for fellowship and the sharing of ideas. Of course email and Skype are a great help, but they are no substitute for face to face interaction particularly when there are matters of some complexity or delicacy to be discussed.

'Group Think' is recognised as one of the most subtle dangers in boards and trustee bodies. In the church we need people with different perspectives to take time out to discuss issues and throw ideas around before decisions are reached. Various interpretations and challenges to received wisdom help us come eventually to solid reasoning. One of the Iona prayers says: 'In the beginning, You made distinctions; Sun and moon, world and sky, land and sea, each with its purpose to compliment the others. You made differences part of the picture; the roots, not the rebels, of harmony, and we are made in your image.' [2]

We are in the pre-Synod season now and the Provincial Board, Ministers, Congregation Deputies and others are gearing up for our biennial Synod in July. May that be a time when we appreciate the jewel that each person brings in them to Synod; may we look forward to hearing different perspectives; may we be energised by the challenges that others bring to our way of thinking; and may that result in us being more fruitful like a well pollinated orchard.

[1] Quoted in 'Zinzendorf Ecumenical Pioneer', by A.J. Lewis, 1962.
[2] 'Iona Community Worship Book', 1988.

Letter

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the two letters printed in the April edition commenting on human sexuality. This thorny issue, I would suggest, is not going to be resolved without a great deal of respect for the views of others and I sincerely hope that it is not the cause of a schism within the British Province of the Moravian Church.

I wonder would we be well advised to ponder on a comment attributed to Bertrand Russell, "the whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves and wiser people so full of doubt."

Let us not forget:

In essentials unity, in non essential liberty and in all things love.

My personal view is that the essentials are love God and your neighbour. Everything else is a non essential. Again my personal understanding is that this is what Jesus himself suggested we should consider important.

Yours sincerely,

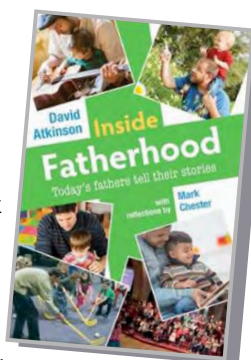
Br Gordon E. France
Baildon

Inside Fatherhood

- Today's fathers tell their stories, by David Atkinson

So what is your view of a father? It may have been formed in your young days but fatherhood is changing and this book looks at many different fathers and the way they relate (or not) to their children in the 21st Century. David Atkinson interviews men and discusses with them how they play out their roles as a father, whether as a stepdad, stay at home dad, adoptive dad or one of the other seven 'types' of dad in the book. This book is an interesting insight into models of fatherhood you may not be familiar with. Each chapter finishes with some Dad tips, statistic relating to the chapter and a biblical reflection from Mark Chester making this book more than just ten interviews. An informative book, worth anyone working with families. It has been written in recognition of the 80th anniversary of Father's Day.

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Blessed...? part 2



The second day of the conference started with prayers before breakfast, Anglican morning prayer was used so it familiar to me as I do it nearly every morning.

Blessed are the poor - Alison Webster started the session by showing some clips from 'Living in Poverty' a BBC 3 programme with Professor Green presenting. I'd seen this programme before but it still moved me to tears as young people talked about what it is like to live in poverty, no child should have to be in the situations these children are in. The range of their feelings - sadness, difficulty coping, the weight of peers' expectation, and the realisation that it was different for them, anger, worry about their family, nervous, upset because mum was upset or worried - was immense, but there were also positive feelings, love for their family being the most prominent and hope for a future that is different. Alison talked about why these children may have behaviour problems and that by increasing their resilience we can improve their futures as well as the way they cope day to day. Churches can offer so much that would help:

- **Connection to help them rebuild, nurture, understanding of them as a whole person, and encouragement to participate.**
- **Healing by giving them a sense of worth, that they are valued and precious, that they are a unique child of God and recognition that there are injustices.**
- **Collectively where everyone in the community has something to give and the community will offer support.**

Paul Butler then took the subject further and questioned what is happening in the UK with children's rights. He also pointed out that the Old Testament commands protection of the orphan (the fatherless), widow and stranger. In other words the outsiders. Where do children fit in? Children have no control over whether or not they are in poverty so the challenge is to tackle not 'child poverty' but poverty. Relative poverty is not just about money but health, housing, education, security, social factors, opportunities etc. A multifaceted response is needed to improve the lot of the poor in the UK.

Blessed are the disposed. Before going any further do this exercise. Stand at your front door, set a timer for three minutes, then in that three minutes gather the things you think are essential if you can never return - you must be able to carry it. What was on your list? How far did you get? If you have mobility problems you may not have time to get very much. Did you pick up a toothbrush? Many children running away from home, or being driven from their homes don't, imagine what it feels like not to be able to clean your teeth. Being clean is something that makes us feel human but if you have been disposed you may have no means to keep clean. The prominence of stories about homelessness bring some of these people to our attention but usually not the child refugees, asylum seekers,

care leavers, children of the evicted, foodbank users and those just getting by. These children are vulnerable to grooming, not just for sex, but to act as drug runners, then sellers, exploited by drug dealers. For many young people they can only see three possible ways out of this, die, prison or run away and live in fear. Mo Baldwin works for the Children's Society and this is one of the campaigns they are working on. She asked us to pray, give and act.

Blessed are the troubled in mind as many of our children and young people are due to a whole range of factors. Estimates suggest that three children in every class have a mental health issue. Matt Blow from Young Minds gave us a whole range of facts and figures including that most young people can't get treatment from mental health service until they are at crisis point. Young Minds offer lots of information for everyone online but they are keen that campaigning for better services, better treatment for those using them and treatment for children when they need it.

Mike Kelly continued this theme but gave the churches practical things to do for children and young people.

- **Notice - look out for children, young people and families in adverse situations, those at key points of their lives e.g. changing school, and get alongside them.**
- **Asking - we often don't ask because we are frightened of the answer but just asking shows we care.**
- **Listening - hearing what is said, acting with empathy, take them seriously, don't judge.**
- **Responding - support the whole family, sign post them to groups who can help.**

Blessed are those who laugh was a much needed laughter workshop after dinner in the evening. Silly slides, laughing when introducing yourself and general merriment helped us all unwind after such a full day. Did you know we all have a unique laugh?

Blessed are those who care Dorothy Moore Brook, a chaplain for Great Ormond Street, helped us to look at the impact on a family, friends and acquaintances when a child dies by placing key people around the child. This was a really useful exercise to help us appreciate just how far the impact of a death may go.

The conference finished with communion.

On reflection this was a conference well worth me attending even if it was emotional and challenging. I think we don't equip youth and children's workers to deal with death, either of a child or when a child is grieving. I am happy to come and do a workshop for any congregation that thinks it would be useful.

Sr Joy Raynor

Provincial Youth and Children's Officer

If you feel gloomy after watching this go to

Forgive us our trespasses

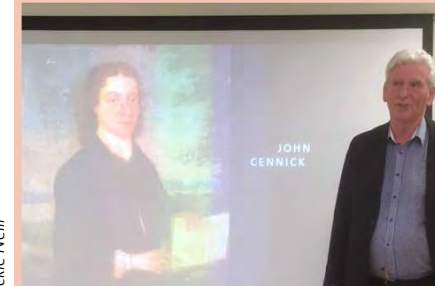
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within Methodism. He therefore became first a member and then an ordained deacon within the Moravian Church. Gary Best's book 'John Cennick - the Forgotten Evangelist', tells Cennick's story, suggests why John Wesley sought to erase his contribution and provides an insight into the religious revival initiated by the Methodists and Moravians. Needless to say that after such an interesting lecture the bookshop sold out of the above book before we left!



Kingswood Moravian Church

© Br Ted Wilson



Gary Best's talk at the New Room, Bristol

Our next stop was Kingswood where John Cennick became the first lay preacher by using the Lot to help him decide whether to preach or not. He was asked to address a group of miners when the expected preacher had failed to turn up. This was the start of the inspiring preacher's career. It is estimated that between 1739 and his early death at the age of just 35 in 1755 Cennick preached on between eight and nine thousand occasions, sometimes in the face of appalling mob violence, suffering indignities such as dead dogs hurled and muskets fired at his head, being drenched with stinking water and even being physically assaulted to name but a few.

Here in the Moravian Church we were greeted and given a short talk by Sr Patsy Holdsworth. We visited the Burial Ground with its beautiful carpet of primroses and from here set off on what was to be our first, but not our last, trespass. This was into what was Whitefield's first tabernacle built in 1741. The bronze plaque which had read 'This building erected by - George Whitfield BA and John Cennick AD 1741 - it is - Whitfield's Tabernacle,

the oldest existing memorial to his great share in the 18th century revival' has sadly 'disappeared'. This building appeared on the first BBC Restoration Village series in 2003 - the year before Gracehill's appearance. Unfortunately it has not fared as well as Gracehill as it is now in a state of such disrepair that its future looks bleak! But back to the trespassing. Lifting aside numerous bits of tangled wire we entered a wilderness at the side of the building full of discarded junk, tin cans etc. with a graveyard where some huge tombs could still be seen. On our return to civilisation we found that we had been 'rumbled' because we discovered David Johnston deep in conversation with a gentleman who wished to know what we thought we were doing! This man turned out to be a member of 'the Friends of Kingwood Park' to whom the building had been donated and who were making plans for its future. At this point we nearly lost David who with his usual enthusiasm for old buildings was trying to organise us to start pulling the cladding off the gable wall to protect what was left of the brickwork.

Having managed to persuade David that this was really not the time nor place we headed off to Hanham Mount where we learnt about the difficulties and dangers faced by the field preachers. A monument commemorates this place where George Whitefield and John Wesley preached to the local mining community from 1739:

one of their earliest open-air preaching places. Hanham Mount is now set in the midst of a housing estate and, though still marked out by a paved cross, it requires a vivid imagination to reflect on those momentous times when the countryside was covered with smoke from the mines which dotted the area. The effort, however, is rewarding.



© Sr Jackie Neill

On Sunday our journey to East Tytherton was to bring us even nearer to the man for whom we were looking. In November 1742, John Cennick purchased a house here. This soon proved to be too small for the numbers who came to hear him preach so that for a while he preached under a pear tree in his orchard while the building was being enlarged. Today in the church there is a collection box, a dining table and a chair made out of that very pear tree which blew down in a storm. We had a lovely service with Sr Patsy Holdsworth, with greetings being given from those present. Afterwards we were treated by the congregation to a



Cennick group with the congregation at Tytherton Moravian Church

© Sr Teresa McWhirter

very welcome and welcoming cup of tea/coffee and biscuits before being given a tour by Nigel Pocock whose ancestors are buried behind the church and who, with members of his family, is in the process of restoring the burial ground. One extremely interesting gravestone is that of Antiquan slave Leonora Casey Carr. This is the only known grave of an ex-slave in Wiltshire and as such is therefore nationally important. In our own Burial Ground of Gracehill we have the gravestone of a young man who was

surrounding area, regardless of the church to which they belonged. The school closed in 1939.

After lunch we moved on to the historic Maud Heath's Causeway another site where Cennick preached in the area. Then it was on to Kings Langley where, using John England's drawings, we could identify the chapel built on the site of the barn converted by Cennick into a preaching place. The days end came at Castle Combe, a village that has barely

born in Gracehill, Antigua and is now buried in Gracehill, Northern Ireland! The missionary links hold firm!

The large, beautiful building behind the church - into which unfortunately we did not trespass - was at one time the boarding school for the children of Moravian missionaries who had been sent overseas. Later it was attended by children from the

changed since the 1700's. Cennick preached there in 1740 and a mini revival in the area resulted. It was easy to imagine the young man preaching to the crowds from the market cross.

What a wonderful trip we had with the weather staying kind to us throughout. I have mentioned only a few trespasses - but they were all definitely worth it! We have returned home tired but inspired by the man who was John Cennick. A man who gave so much of himself unstintingly but who has not received the recognition he deserves although he probably would not have sought it anyway. We were exhausted by the miles we travelled - by car. It is hard to imagine that he did not have that luxury. He travelled by foot or horse, if lucky, and it is no wonder that he died so young after such a hardworking life.

Sr Jackie Neill
Gracehill



PROVINCIAL MEN'S FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL RALLY

To be held at
Horton Moravian Church
Little Horton, Bradford
**on SATURDAY
23rd JUNE 2018**

Cup of tea at 12.30pm
Commencing at 1pm

Theme : How the other half live
The work of the Bradford soup run, helping to feed and support the needy people of the Bradford area.

Speaker : John Tempest
Founding Director of the Bradford Soup Run.

Celebration of Holy Communion.

Cups of tea served,
bring a packed meal.

Come along for a time of fellowship.



FAIRFIELD MUSEUM

Open every Saturday 12 May to 25 August 2018 1pm-4pm

Admission: Adults £2, Concessions £1.50, Fairfield Moravian Settlement
Family Ticket £5 (under 5's free) in The College,
Light Refreshments available Fairfield Square, Droylsden M43 6AD

6th Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History & Music

THE WALTER VIVIAN MOSES LECTURE IN MORAVIAN STUDIES
Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts
"Evangelical Protestantism In Antigua And Barbados, 1834-1914"

THE MORAVIAN MUSIC FOUNDATION PRESENTS
A Night of Chamber Music

MORAVIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL LECTURE
Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood
"Creation of the Modern Moravian Unity in 1957"

October 11th-13th, 2018

Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

moravianconferences.org | 610.866.3255

The conference is sponsored by the Moravian Archives, Moravian College, and the Center for Moravian Studies, in partnership with the Moravian Music Foundation, Moravian Historical Society, and Moravian Theological Seminary.





My Reflection on the South Asian Moravian Church Conference, New Delhi 2018

© Sr Elisabeth Hollindrake



Sr Sarah Crossland and Br Livingstone Thompson

Growth and Renewal Conference

'At age 74, why do I need to attend or take part in the Pastoral Conference', was my Dad's anxious question when he was sent an invitation from Br Robert Hopcroft for the South Asia Moravian Church Pastoral Conference schedule on 27th February to 2nd March 2018. At the end of the conference I can see a smile on my Father's face with a ray of new hope in new leadership and new era in Moravian Ministry in South Asia.

It was indeed a privilege to be part of the conference with all the members from British Mission Board Br Hopcroft, Sr Roberta, Sr Zoey, Bishop Joachim, and Br Jørgen Bøytler (UNITY Board Administrator). It was definitely an opportunity for us all in the conference to learn how Moravian Church functions and coordinates in order to fulfil our purpose as individual and as church member in 21st century.

Br John McOwat's short article ('Times they are a-changin'') in the February 2018 issue of the Moravian Messenger mentioned about the two ways of explaining the existence of Church and mission: 'the Church exists for mission' and 'the Church exists by mission ...'. These two statements remind me of our simple yet a complicated situation defining where and what we are as church at a time when we start looking at our identity as Christian. Should we live a life giving more preferences to our own as church and then to the society, or should we serve the community to influence our personal life and church? These two approaches will always be questions for anyone and any other congregation. But one thing is for certain that we Moravians will always keep Jesus first, where ever we go to start our new congregation, new mission field or in our continuation.

The Moravian Church in Assam, North East India started with a desire to let the Rongmei Naga community get education: education to give the community an open arm and to let them have a free will to understand the true meaning of Christianity. Christianity in North East India has a history of mass conversion and 'auto conversion' - 'entire family'. Though it is biblical to say that the Spirit can still work in this situation, I personally think that we can give people possibilities for understanding the meaning of what they are professing rather than they saying 'I did not know than'.

The Moravian Institute in Rajpur is one of the best examples in following the true discipleship in Christian community along with the Institute in Assam, where lots of our young members learn in early life. We thank you, the leaders in shaping us in our thought and mind in the way of Jesus. All praise to God for

giving you strength. The Institutes have not only help us know what it is to be Christian, but also have helped us to walk in it.

We do really need to have a discerning spirit in the step we take in the ministry, we all are involved, either as ordain minister or as member in the church. We sometime tend to follow the 'spirit' and forget that our God is a God of peace and order (1 Cor 14.33). I believe if we keep Bible - the Word of God - as our primary yardstick we can move on through the Spirit who guides us and comforts us.

The conference in February do really bring a kind of structure way of organizing our way of doing ministry and a glimpse of where are we heading to.

The introduction from Br Bøytler from Unity Board was a very clear picture for me about the Worldwide Moravian Church and its administration. I have been following books and writing but could not get a clear picture ever before. Br Hopcroft's induction on British Province's Church order was really a helpful guide toward understanding how we should move ahead in years to come in South Asia. One of our brothers at the end of the conference mentioned and appreciated Br Joachim's two messages he shared during the conference. The message of the talents in Gospel according to Matthew of how we are supposed be working together in the ministry rather than counting what we have or not was indeed an encouragement for us in the conference. I believe Sr Roberta and Sr Zoey now have quite a good view of the ministry in South Asia. Our discussion has been a fruitful one and we believe that we do need to work collectively in order to learn from each other's. Our coming together and the thoughts that we have penned down during this conference was a like Jigsaw puzzle which becomes meaningful when they are brought together. Meeting once in a while to share about various ministry from friends around the world is really joyful. Some of us have never seen or met other's before. But we always know that we do pray for each other's.

We would like to thank British Mission Board for bringing us together and walking with us in the ministry God have called us. There may be times when we stand in a cross road not knowing where to step next but we believe God will continue to use each one of you to help us walk at least a mile ahead.

Br Ebenezer Gangmei
Moravian Church, Delhi
New Delhi

At the 2016 synod a proposal was passed that required the church to focus on Renewal and Growth. The Mission and Society Committee took this on and organised a day conference.

Saturday 10th March was rather a grey day but this didn't put off over 30 people, from 15 congregations, travelling to Ockbrook for the conference.

Bishop Joachim Kreusel set us off by sharing the reading from 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 ... So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow ... For we are co-workers in God's service.

The first guest speaker was Sarah Crossland from Churches Visitor and Tourism Association. She told that there are roughly 40,000 visitors to churches in Britain every year. If we were to open our churches for visitors we may well attract local people who might choose to join the congregation if they like what they find. Each church is unique in what it can offer the visitor. Over recent years there has been a change of emphasis when interpreting a building from the architecture and parts of a church to the people who used churches. This especially inspired my imagination and I can see how easy it would be to gather some old photos and do a short caption about the people, for example their occupation, where they lived and the role they played in the congregation.

Sarah made a sensible suggestion that if a congregation were to think about opening their church they should start small with one open day. She listed points to consider when planning an open day:

- **who is the day aimed at**
- **what event will be put on**
- **put up clear signs outside**
- **keep the door open!**
- **badges for helpers and welcomers**
- **accessability**
- **security**
- **health and safety**
- **refreshments**
- **information inside the church**
- **publicity**

Sarah ended her presentation by introducing us to the website www.explorechurches.org: we were interested to hear that our churches could be listed on this site. I would urge you to explore this website and seriously consider adding your church details to the site.

The second speaker was Rev. Dr. Livingstone Thompson from our University Road and Kilwarlin congregations.

How many times have you been asked what the Moravian Church is; this question is a great opportunity to sell ourselves and draw in new members to worship with us. Livingstone challenged us to focus on the identity of the Moravian Church. In groups we had to describe the church in just ten words: our statements had to be effective and accurate; this was a tricky task especially sticking to just ten words! What would you come up with?

Livingstone presented us with just four words:

- **Worldwide**
- **Welcoming**
- **Witnessing**
- **Protestant**

Lunchtime was a lovely opportunity to catch up with friends and meet new friends. Fully refreshed we returned to our seats for the second part of Livingstone's presentation. We were asked to think about our growth strategy.

A model for forming a strategy can be found in Matthew 28: 17-20 ... When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

Livingstone identified doubt as a barrier to growth; doubt in our ability to share our faith with others and also our doubt in Jesus as our Saviour. It is reassuring that doubt is mentioned in the bible. It

is not a recent phenomenon and Jesus gives us the authority to:

- **GO to people we meet and those living near our churches**
- **MAKE disciples by welcoming others**
- **TEACH through preaching and at Sunday school.**

Our final task was to look at eight areas of church life and decide:

- **What we already have?**
- **What we are doing well?**
- **What is missing?**

It was very clear that we have a lot to build on: we are welcoming, we have well trained ministers and lay preachers, we are caring and good at catering; to name but a few.

Of course we identified many things that were missing: more ministers, families with children, how to talk to people with no faith, and confidence.

Livingstone told us to play to our strengths and mind our weakness. Identify what our congregation is good at and use this as an advantage to build the congregation with. At the same time identify one thing which is missing, this should be the one thing which has the greatest consequence to the congregation.

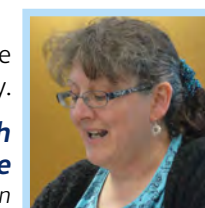
Bishop John McOwat brought the day to an end with a hymn of rejoicing and the sharing of The Grace.

Both speakers gave us clear, simple plans for action which I pray that congregations and individuals will follow to allow our great church to be renewed and to grow.

What will I take with me from the conference? As well as the practical tips, I will try to lose the doubt that I have in my ability to share my faith with others. I will remember that I am God's co-worker and that Jesus is with me always as I 'go, make and teach' in my everyday life.

Thank you to everyone who made this an inspiring day.

Sr Elisabeth Hollindrake
Horton



M.W.A. Irish Retreat 4-6th May 2018 The Power of Living Water



Five sisters from Dukinfield set off for Belfast City Airport at a ridiculously early time on Friday morning and we were at the City Hall, Belfast by 9.30a.m. We had several hours to kill before we had to arrive at the Drumalis Retreat Centre in Larne and so we decided to travel on the open-top bus around the capital. It was lovely to see the city in the sunshine and those of us who had visited before were pleased to see the way Belfast has been regenerated. After lunch, it was time to pick up the mini-bus to take us on the 45 minute journey to Drumalis. It was wonderful to meet up again with our sisters from the British Province and unpack our bags in the beautifully appointed rooms allocated to us.

After the evening meal and welcome notices, Sr Eunice handed over to Sr Jane Dixon for 'fun' - that's what it said on the running order but the quiz that followed just made me realise that I/we don't know enough about our bibles. Evening prayers were conducted by Sr Gillian Taylor and we retired to our beds early in anticipation of what the following day would bring.

Sr Elizabeth Mcwatters took morning prayers on Saturday and used for her theme 'Be Still' and read from Matthew 11: Come to me all who are weary.

Sr Jane's bible study centred around the Woman at the Well, probably one of the most well-known of the stories in the New Testament where Jesus asks the Samaritan woman for a drink of water. We discussed the background to the story, that it just wasn't the done thing for a Jew to talk to a Samaritan woman, especially one of such ill-repute, but he told her everything about her life and offered her life-giving water which she accepted willingly. By leaving her jug at the well, it was suggested that this was indicative of her leaving her old life behind. Sr Jane illustrated the discussion with some marvellous paintings by Valerie Sjodin and I would recommend you 'Googling' her if you don't know of her already.

We learned a new hymn, to the tune of What a Friend we have in Jesus, and the opening words were 'In the questions without answers, in the truth we seek to find, God is calling us to journey, leaving certainty behind'. This is a lovely hymn which I am sure we will use in the future.

The rest of the morning was taken up with craft activities. We could make cards or pictures using buttons or paint free-hand. Being less adventurous I spent the morning colouring pre-printed and illustrated biblical texts. I had forgotten just how calming a pastime of colouring can be and felt quite 'laid back' when

we broke for lunch. We had a free afternoon and Sr Jackie and I walked into the town centre and found the craft shop that everyone was talking about. I too bought a bag that is cut out in Northern Ireland and then sent to Vietnam for the local women to sew together as a form of income.

After our evening meal Br and Sr Kernohan visited us and Br Mark regaled us with tales of his job as head of security with a well-known supermarket in Northern Ireland. Very amusing stuff - thank you Br Mark, I will never enter the doors of that store without remembering the tricks that some of the customers and staff get up to. The evening ended with hymn singing led by Sr Kathleen Kitson and Sr Conchita who danced her way through many of our favourite hymns.

Sunday followed in similar vein, with the prayers being led by Sr Roberta Thompson and Sr Kathleen. We read from Psalm 107, verses 33-38:

'He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground, 34 a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the wickedness of its inhabitants. 35 He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water. 36 And there he lets the hungry live, and they establish a town to live in; 37 they sow fields, and plant vineyards, and get a fruitful yield. 38 By his blessing they multiply greatly, and he does not let their cattle decrease.'

Bible study continued the theme Living Water and we were reminded that all things are dependent on water and that our lives are not the same without the life-giving water that only God can give us.

The Retreat finished on Sunday afternoon with a Farewell Service when the Cup of Covenant was shared between us. After the singing of the MWA hymn and the reciting of the Mizpah, we all went on our way home, feeling blessed and truly refreshed in body and spirit.

Many thanks to Sr Jane for leading us in her usual inspired, interesting and wonderful way and many thanks to the sisters of Northern Ireland for all their hard work in organising such a wonderful occasion - see you again in two years' time: God willing.

Sr Sue Selby
Dukinfield



News from Albania

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Jesus is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

It is with joy that we inform you hereby regarding the Easter service held in our church Sunday, 1st of April, at 10.30am.

As every year, members from the congregations of Tirana, Bathore, Burrel, Koms, Elbasan, and Pogradec, gathered in a service in Tirana. We were 150 participants, and we felt the Holy Spirit guide us during the two parts of the service. The first part was worship and prayer, the second one was a greeting from all groups. Each of them had prepared a short program and we were happy to witness how the Spirit works among people and their work in respective groups. Easter this year coincided with the birthday of one of the founders of our Church Viola.



We enjoyed being together in a blessed service and we thank our Lord for the time spent in His Name.

We take the opportunity to thank you once for your continuous support in thoughts and prayers. May the Spirit of Easter follow you today and always!

God bless you!

Staff and leaders

Kisha Luterane e Moraviane, Shqipëri
Lutheran and Moravian Church in Albania

Summer Camp 2018



When > 4 - 11th August

Where > Dovedale House

Cost > £325 with £25 reduction for booking before 1st June

For > All young people connected with a Moravian church ages 10-17

Includes > all meals and accommodation in shared rooms; outings included to Alton Towers; and other activities. It's loads of fun and an opportunity to make new friends from across the church in the UK.

More information and booking forms from your minister or Joy Raynor (joy.raynor@moravian.org.uk or phone 01753553549)

More information about the venue at www.dovedalehouse.org

CALLING EVERYONE INTERESTED IN YOUTH LEADERSHIP

We need to know who is interested in helping at Summer Camp and youth weekends. The work is hard but rewarding and contributes to the mission and ministry of the church.

Qualities that we look for:

Passion for young people and for God, regular church attendance (ideally a Moravian Church but we recognise that for many people there isn't one near where they live), adaptability, team working, empathy with young people, energetic and enthusiastic, creative (this doesn't mean just the arts), willing to attend training and have a DBS/AccessNI. Experience of working with young people is desirable.

Summer Camp 2018 is August 4th-11th but if you are not available then we may want you to join a weekend camp staff.

To apply contact Joy Raynor via Facebook messenger, email joy.raynor@moravian.org.uk or by phone 01753 553549 or 07713853184 (leave a message if I don't answer)

Applications welcome from everyone who has the energy required. Please let me know if you have been a leader at camp in the past and would like to be considered.



Ballinderry

The congregation enjoyed welcoming children and young people to a Cradle Roll service on 18th February. The theme was God's promise shown through the rainbow. The collection and a donation by the MWA totalling £211.60 went towards the charity Tiny Life. It was good to see Sr Gillian Taylor, chair of the Provincial Board, speaking at the Anniversary Service on 18th March. Refreshments and fellowship followed the service.

Following Sr Sarah Groves and Br Christopher Jones visits to various sites of interest concerning John Cennick, a talk and slide show was given by her in the church on 21st March. This was well attended and gave a good insight into the sacrifices he made in spreading the word of God, even as far as Lower Ballinderry! We enjoyed refreshments and fellowship after the talk.

Our Easter Morning service included sowing sunflower seeds and ended with an Easter Egg hunt in the grounds.

The Irish District Men's Breakfast was held in the church on 21st April. As catering facilities are limited, thanks go to Srs Joan Brown and Violet McCorry who cooked bacon and sausages off site and these were brought to the church



Men's Breakfast at Ballinderry

© Sr Edna Cooper



Cennick Talk at Ballinderry

© Sr Sarah Groves

and served in rolls. Tea, coffee, juice and pancakes were also provided. Local resident Ralph Patterson spoke on physical, mental and spiritual health and gave out a short quiz to test our knowledge of health matters. Adam Patton also talked about his experiences in Africa of using football to teach Christianity.

Sr Marilyn Marshall

Fetter Lane

The Easter season may have been gloomy as far as the weather was concerned, but services including Palm Sunday, Passion Week and Easter Sunday were no less inspirational and thought provoking, focusing on the most important moments in the Christian calendar. Children (and adults) were taken through the events of Palm Sunday with the help of Sr Naomi Hancock's handmade knitted figures, helping us to focus on the entry to Jerusalem. A small number of us joined Br Edwin Quildan to follow the Passion Week readings, culminating in a joyful Easter morning, where our numbers were greatly increased with Sisters and Brothers from the other London Moravian congregations. The service was taken by our own Br Edwin, joined by Brs, James Woolford and Edward Sanniez, and Sr Christine Emanuel, a minister in training. Despite the weather, it seemed like winter was over and we left feeling the warmth of the Easter promise.



Easter breakfast 2018: Eloise, Megan and Naima

© Sr Minette Flemmings



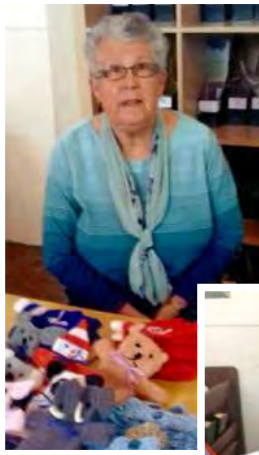
Naomi's figures

Sr Cynthia Dize

Kingswood

Over the last few years, some of our members have been knitting to help those in need in many parts of the world. The shoe box appeal each Christmas is well supported. Sr Ann Dilling has been knitting woollen gloves, bonnets, booties, scarves and soft toys for members' boxes for many years. Her efforts are welcomed and appreciated.

Sr Thelma Smith has also been knitting woollen squares, which she then stitches together to make blankets for the Nepal earthquake appeal, also other members are knitting squares which Thelma then adds to her own. Both Ann and Thelma are inspiring all of us.



© Sr Wonnacot

Br David Smart

Later in the year we are hosting a heritage weekend over 8th and 9th September. The theme of the weekend features the work of the four evangelists, John Cennick, George Whitfield, John and Charles Wesley, as well as aspects of the history of Kingswood. Some of them are; coal mining, boot and shoe industry, Whitsun walks, old Kingswood families, church summer camps and the poetry and life of A. J. Lewis (who lies in our church graves area). A flower show will go alongside these displays.

On 10th May this year it will be three years since Sr Patsy Holdsworth became our minister after some time that we were in interregnum. She has breathed new life into our church and we are lucky to have her. Coincidentally this date is also her birthday, so we wish her well on this day.

Ockbrook



© Sr Julie Hague

Twerties' service

Our Twerties group (Twenties and Thirties, you may have read about them in the April Messenger) recently led our morning service. The theme was



"Witnessing as Children of God". Instead of a sermon, there were four different stations around the church, which we could visit, each with a Twerty at it to tell us about it.

They were: Foot washing, a display of pictures and information about Derby City Mission, the Environment, and Communicating with God.

Some of the Twerties then talked to us about different kinds of witnessing, and encouraged us to think about how we witness to being a child of God in our everyday lives.

Sr Julie Hague

From Church House

Provincial Diary for June

10th	EDC Spring Conference - Bedford
18th-19th	PEC, BMB and Estates at Church House
23rd	Men's Fellowship - Horton
28th-July 2nd	European Women's Conference

Congregational Register

Baptisms

22nd April 2018	Matilda Annie Sarah McCormick	Gracehill
6th May 2018	Rebecca Nancy McDonald	Gracehill

Marriages

5th May 2018	Adam Jeffery and Amy Williams	Fulneck
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Correction: In October's issue on page 60, 'Br Shanti and Sr Vani Pradhan', was incorrectly printed as 'Sr Shanti and Br Vani Pradhan', for which we apologise.

5	World Environment Day (http://worldenvironmentday.global/)
10	Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Destiny) - Muslim
14	Ramadan ends - Muslim
15	Eid-al-Fitr - Muslim
17	Renewal of the Brethren's Church: beginning of the building of Herrnhut by the immigrants from Moravia in 1722
17	Father's Day
18-24	Refugee Week (www.refugeeweek.org.uk)
21	Summer Solstice
26	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (http://www.un.org/en/events/torturevictimsday/)

Dates to remember!

British Mission Board (BMB) News

Nepal

The School year at International Kindergarten and Shristi Academy started in May with 16 new enrolments, out of which three children are from Khokana Moravian Church. There are now ten children from the Moravian Church enrolled in the school and receiving scholarship through the Moravian Tuition Aid Program and the Unity Women's Desk.

The new Grade 3 class has opened and students are were very excited to have a brand new class on the roof top, which was once an open terrace but has now been transformed into a class room with the support of the American Board of World Mission and BMB.

Please continue to prayer for the ongoing work in the school. They operate in rented buildings but will soon need to move to bigger upgraded buildings if numbers continue to flourish. Each year as numbers grow, there is a need for new tables, chairs, desks, books, computers and other supplies. Please let Roberta know if you or your congregation would be willing to support the ongoing work.

India

We have been very blessed to have three of our theological students finish their studies and accept placements as student pastors with support from the BMB. Br Levi Ruangmei has started a placement in Delhi. Br Jacob Gangemei has started a place in Khokana, Nepal. Br Bir Bahadur Rana has started a placement in Binnakandi, which will include the outstations in Latingkhal and Haflong. More information and updates will follow soon but please keep all our brothers in your prayers.

The BMB is very grateful to the MWA for their donation of £1,500. This will provide grants to our three students to cover living costs while on their placements.

From the Sanctuary

The topic of 'Hell' seems to have featured heavily on my radar in recent days. In my case, it comes because I have been reading Dan Brown's latest epic, 'Inferno'. As well as being an excellent read, Dan Brown's books operate on more profound levels and speak great truth - if not necessarily at a literal level. 'Inferno' certainly gives much to think about - as did 'The Da Vinci Code' for which Dan Brown is more famed!

There isn't much written on 'Hell' in the Scriptures. It features comparatively few times, as opposed to 'Heaven' which is mentioned very many times. So we can assume it didn't overly preoccupy the authors of the various books that form the Bible. It certainly didn't preoccupy Jesus. Hell isn't preached on much these days in liberal theology, and seems largely absent from modern and post-modern theological thinking. By contrast, Hell featured significantly in Victorian theology and preaching, and certainly seems to have been a significant preoccupation of the Renaissance Christian world which was emerging from the hell of the Dark Ages. It also featured greatly at a time when the Church was most politically powerful in western history (and where the Church is still very powerful). We can presume it was/is 'pushed' as a concept to give the Church greater political power - after all, the Church can/could 'save' souls! Hell engenders 'fear' of a place from which all souls need saving! So much so, that people even paid for forgiveness (a 'wrong' that eventually instigated the Hussite and Lutheran reformations) and avoided conflict with the Church authorities so as not to be excommunicated - which was a certain pathway to Hell according to the thinking of the time (and in the Catholic and Evangelical Church today). 'Hell' certainly is a powerful threat (a political tool, perhaps?), and he who holds the key to 'salvation', holds the key to much power in the minds of the unenlightened.

So does 'Hell' have a place in our thinking about God now? If it does, my struggle with it is to connect a belief in a God that

loves unconditionally, with one who can 'condemn' us to Hell. The two cannot be reconciled in my thinking. Instead, the place that I have reached about 'Hell' is that if a person is able to receive God's love, then they are able to live in relationship with 'Love' (God). To live in God's love is to live with an awareness of God's presence (i.e. Heaven - whether it be the Kingdom of God in the here-and-now, or the life-hereafter). A person who is unable to receive God's love (for whatever reason) although being in God's presence, will never be able to see it or experience it, until they become open to its life-enhancing possibility (that is what I understand by 'salvation' and 'redemption' - that openness to relationship with God that is, in and of itself, life-enhancing, transformational and healing). That absence of God is 'Hell'. Hell, very simply, is to be without God - not in the sense that God is ever absent (omnipresence), but He/She/It is nonetheless experienced as being absent through non-awareness and absence of relationship. I experience this in clients who are unable to love themselves - no matter how much love is directed towards them and surrounds them. Their inability to 'unconditionally self-accept' means that they can't receive the love of others because they haven't yet learned and experienced that they are lovable. That means that they live in a state of not feeling loved (to them it is a state of not 'being loved'), because they can't let others into loving relationship with them. That consequential isolation and self-loathing is their 'Hell'. This jeopardises every relationship that they have the potential to form and be a part of. Yet God is there (as we are there), pouring out His/Her/Its love to them and to us.

So, can we receive God's love as He/She/It gives love to us? How open are we to this Heaven that God offers us? That is my thinking (my 'truth') about Hell which is still evolving as my faith develops. What is your 'truth' about Hell?

Br Peter Gubi, Dukinfield

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