

# moravian messenger

JUNE 2022



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## Persecution drives Refugees to a new home

Refugees the world over have three huge challenges to face: persecution that drives them from their homes; a difficult journey into the unknown and finally settling in a new place to live. On the foundations of refugees leaving Moravia in 1722 is one of the reasons that the Moravian Church as we know it today is built. During the late seventeenth century, the Unitas Fratrum had been driven underground as most areas in that region had reinstated Catholicism as the official religion, forcing Protestants to practice their faith secretly and so the Brethren disappeared as an organised church. However, the first steps in creating Herrnhut, the birthplace of the renewed Moravian Church, were taken on 17th June 1722; hence this day is the Moravian Memorial Day to mark the renewal of the Brethren's Church.

Despite many years of persecution, the Brethren living in Moravia and beyond were holding onto their faith. Before his death in 1670 Jan Comenius had actively encouraged them and had raised money from England to buy bibles in their own languages. Living in countries with religious intolerance, reading a bible in the vernacular was one of the many dangerous acts that helped them to uphold their faith. They were banned from holding services and if they could not produce a certificate showing they had been to confession they could be imprisoned. Brothers and sisters were not to be defeated and in face of the many dangers, they met in secret. On cold winter nights they dared to walk in single file through the snow into the woods to worship together. The person at the back had to use a branch to cover their footsteps. Kindly neighbours would whistle to warn of danger.

People realised that they needed to move, to find a place where

they could worship together peacefully upholding their beliefs. Although some were losing hope there were others who believed that a new home could be found. One such person was George Jaeschke who, on his death bed, told his family that he felt a long journey was ahead and that this would lead to being offered a home in a new land. In fact, it was from the village where he lived, 'Sehlen' in Moravia, that the journey was to start. 'Sehlen' is how it is often spelt in Moravian Church documents but it is 'Söhle' in German, and 'Žilina' in Czech: now a district of the town of Nový Jičín in the Czech Republic.

Christian David, an advocate for the persecuted Protestants in Moravia, was to lead a small group from Sehlen to Saxony, where they had been offered land to settle on the estate in Berthelsdorf that Count Zinzendorf had recently purchased. After saying fond farewells to family, they each slipped out quietly into the night. Among the first group was Michael, the son of George Jaeschke. From Sehlen they travelled on side roads and crossed the Silesian border, arriving in Saxony nine days after leaving their home village.

The journey of over 350 km was hard for the fit, imagine the difficulties for those with young children and the very old. For some the journey was never completed; they were arrested and returned to a cruel death of hard labour. Despite the hardships many repeated the journey to bring family and friends; Christian David did the journey twelve times.

When they arrived Count Zinzendorf was away in Dresden. Initially they received a cold welcome and were nearly sent away. The possibility of them settling in the village of Berthelsdorf was considered, however Zinzendorf's steward, Johann Georg

*continue inside on page 64*



**Unity Youth  
Committee  
- Caribbean 2022**

(page 63)



**Report about Ukrainian  
Refugees in Herrnhut**

(page 64)



**Moravian Women's  
Association (MWA)  
Day**

(page 65)



**Br Harry Bintley  
(1932-2022)**

(page 69)



## Editorial

I remember the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 with great affection. There was a real buzz in the air and for some reason we went to Tintern, a village just a mile or so from Brockweir to celebrate. I can clearly remember the evening, with my mum, and a great night was had by all!

Twenty-five years later the Golden Jubilee in 2002 was marked by the Queen with a grand tour around the country with Garden Parties in many localities. Chris and I were serving in Baildon, West Yorkshire at that time and we were invited by Bradford City Council to a Leeds and Bradford Garden Party at Harewood House. It was another great day and we saw the Queen at a distance but had such fun with the other Bradford invitees.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 was also memorable with a special service at Gracehill in the morning and a Jubilee Big Lunch in the Square in the afternoon with members of the Church and residents of Gracehill. And by the time you get this month's Messenger we will have celebrated her Platinum Jubilee in Gracehill with a Jubilee Picnic in the Park. I am sure that many others of you will have had family, congregation and/or community

celebrations too.

I have only ever known one monarch and she and Prince Philip have been constants in my life and for many other people. She has always been there, through the good times and the bad, and all the phases of her life - young wife and mother through to elderly great grandmother and widow. Her Christian faith underpins all that she does and her Christmas messages speak of that faith and of community and service. I am glad that she has been there as a steadying hand and as a great example of dedication to duty through these seventy years.

So, I will be thanking God for The Queen and for all that she has given to her country and celebrating her Jubilee with enthusiasm. We seem to have few reasons to celebrate at the moment so all the more reason to mark and enjoy one of the truly good things about the United Kingdom.

Please send us in news and pictures of the celebrations in your congregations.

**Sr Sarah Groves**  
Editorial Team



## Letter

Dear Editors,

*It is going to be fascinating to me and one or two other Moravians to see what is on the agenda and business for Synod.*

*In my 83 years of life, surviving World War Two with its rationing and shortages, my world is in crisis, yes it is, but I can only be concerned about my country, and I am convinced that Christianity as practised by present day practitioners is failing at least 30% of my country's population.*

*With poverty now for economic and budgetary purposes categorised as the following: fuel poverty, water poverty, food poverty, educational poverty and financial poverty; is it not time for a serious Christian heartfelt debate on the premise that 'the poor will always be with us'? Do readers remember the 1970s nouveau riche? Well in this, the 2020s, the nouveau poor in the sixth richest country on planet Earth outnumber the nouveau riche by millions. Would Christ tolerate this?*

**Br Alan Holdsworth**

## Summer Camp 2022

**Date: 1st-5th August 2022**

**Place: Beverley Friary Youth Hostel, HU17 0DF**

**For: young people ages 10-17**

**Availability: Limited spaces**

**Cost: £130 each**

Summer Camp 2022 will meet for five days in Yorkshire with the usual Summer camp games and fun.

Forms can be obtained from your minister or from Joy Raynor at: [youth@moravian.org.uk](mailto:youth@moravian.org.uk).



## MORAVIAN PROVINCIAL MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

### ANNUAL RALLY

To be held at Leominster Moravian Church, on Saturday 26th June 2022

*Come along and enjoy fellowship together*

**Speaker:** Sr. Lorraine Parsons  
**Subject:** CAPTAIN JACKSON  
**The Last Captain of the Harmony**

Please bring your own refreshments for Tea. A cup of tea will be provided.

# Unity Youth Committee Caribbean 2022

View of Charlotte Amalie © Sr Sacha Lambert

From 14th to 17th March 2022, I attended the Unity Youth Committee meeting which was held on the island of St Thomas in the US Virgin Islands (USVI). This meeting was the replacement for the meeting which had been cancelled in 2021 bringing together committee members from across the Unity including Europe, South Africa, the Caribbean, America and Tanzania. The Desk Coordinator and the Tanzanian rep couldn't attend in person and so joined the meetings via Zoom.

I'll be honest; I was a little nervous about travelling but found myself quite reassured along the route thanks to moments of intervention and connection with fellow travellers. Upon arriving in St Thomas, we were greeted by Br Errol, one of the Moravian ministers, who took us on a short tour of Charlotte

Amalie (the main city of St Thomas) before depositing us at our hotel. We were blessed with warm but not scorching hot weather during our visit which made for a very comfortable time during our discussions and our times of fellowship.

The main aim of the meeting was to really focus on and finalise the preparations for the upcoming Tanzanian Heritage Tour in August 2022 but to also discuss and share what was happening regarding youth work in the various regions. The meeting was held over two days and with many hours spent, we came away with plenty of tasks for us all to complete to develop this year's tour and future work successfully.

On our final full day we were given the opportunity to have a

guided tour of the Moravian churches in St Thomas and see some of the Island. We visited three churches on the tour and met with various members and friends of each location. The churches have plenty of history and are well attended with large congregations. Two of the churches also have their own junior schools.

If you get the chance to visit the USVI and its Moravian churches, I thoroughly encourage you to do so. Island life is wonderfully laid back but there is always something going on with the daily arrivals of cruise ships. In the meantime if you can pray for those working on building the Heritage Tour, those who are applying to attend the trip and all the youth work that goes on around our Unity, we would be extremely grateful.

P.S. I know what you might be thinking; why did you fly

across the world in order to have a meeting? And you're right, it is a good question. We do need to think about how we conduct such committees or meetings going into a new future BUT face to face meetings, where safe to do so, are still a massive part of how we unite with each other. From a Sunday morning service to a Summer Camp full of kids, to joining with brothers and sisters from across the globe. Zoom can link us so far, but real connection is made when we are all together.

**Br Phill Battelle**

European Representative - Unity Youth Committee



From L to R: Br Jørgen Bøytler (Unity Board Administrator), David William Daniels (South Africa), Sr Angelica Regalado (America), Sr Sacha Lambert (Caribbean), Br Phill Battelle (European) and Br Errol Connor (Nietsky Moravian Church, St. Thomas)

© Br Phill Battelle



# Report about Ukrainian Refugees in Herrnhut

Three hundred years ago religious exiles from Moravia arrived in Herrnhut seeking a safe place to live their lives in peace. In this anniversary year, Herrnhut is once again providing shelter and community, this time to over 100 women and children from Ukraine. As refugees began arriving in Herrnhut at the beginning of March, many citizens from Herrnhut and its surrounding villages banded together to offer hospitality and shelter to our guests. Divisions that had arisen during the COVID pandemic were quickly erased as people from different churches as well as the town gathered in meetings to share information and opportunities so that the Ukrainians would have a safe and healing place to live. Particular attention is being paid to physical needs like housing, clothing, communication, health care, and the help to master necessary bureaucratic hurdles, educational needs for the children as well as language help for adults, and social needs such as recreation, chances to meet together and the establishing of friendships and building of relationships.

There are many different ways that we in our Herrnhut Moravian congregation are engaging with our guests. Our music directors offer a weekly musical program for children, and our youth choir includes Ukrainian youth. It was moving to hear our youth choir singing in church some songs in Ukrainian! In the Zinzendorf School (our Moravian high school), about 20 kids are taking part in classes such as art, music, English and Physical Education. One of our members, a teacher who is fluent in Russian, provides critical communication with the young students.

Because the Ukrainians (many of them coming from a big city) are spread around in the surrounding villages, we felt it was

important to offer an opportunity for our guests to spend time together and to have the chance to meet people from Herrnhut. To that end we created Café Odessa. Every Wednesday afternoon we invite people for coffee, cake and soft drinks. Board games have proven to be a wonderful way to bridge a language barrier and bring people into contact with one another. For the Ukrainian youth, our youth room is open one afternoon a week with a similar offering. There are also German classes for those who are interested.

At this point we do not know how long our guests will be with us. As summer approaches we will need to think about programs for the children as well as other ways of supporting families. While all of the guests who were initially staying at the Moravian Guest House are now being housed either with families or in their own apartments, there are still many others who are in provisional quarters who will need more permanent housing. Also, as the seasons change, these families will need appropriate clothing as they all left their homes with very little. As the fighting in Ukraine continues, we could expect more refugees to arrive in Herrnhut.

The response to this crisis has been heartwarming and overwhelming. Differences that once divided people have been overcome as we come together to care for our Ukrainian neighbours. Just as the first families that came to Herrnhut 300 years ago found a place of refuge, safety and freedom, so we hope to share that legacy today.

**Rev Jill E Vogt**

*Pastor, Herrnhut Moravian Church*

## Persecution drives Refugees to a new home *continued*

Heitz, realised that new settlers may not be welcome, their trade as cutlers was not needed and he was concerned they may introduce infection.

In the meantime, the refugees stayed in an old farmhouse about a mile from the village but it was on a dismal, swampy stretch of ground which was dreary and bleak, although the neighbouring woods of pines and beeches relieved the bareness of the scene.

The steward was instructed to find a suitable place that would enable them to build a new home where the community could become established and grow. He spotted a place with a thick mist that suggested to him a spring. He offered a prayer on their behalf, and registered the solemn vow, 'Upon this spot, in Thy name, I will build for them the first house.' In addition to land, he ensured they had a cow to help them meet their basic needs. He inspected the site with Christian David and marked the trees he might fell; thus encouraged, Christian David seized his axe, struck it

into a tree, and, as he did so, exclaimed, 'Yea, the sparrow hath found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself.' The date was 17th June 1722 and the first step in building Herrnhut had been taken. From Herrnhut, the Moravian Church was to grow and become the worldwide Church of today.



*Print from engraving of Christian David felling the first tree in Herrnhut.*

The Czech Moravian History Association in Suchdol and Odrou, which is in the Nový Jičín District, set up the 'Moravians

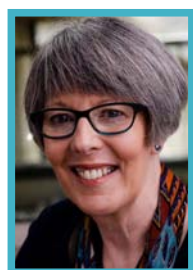
exile way' (Via exulantis) with a map of the route and places where some of the original refugees stayed along the way. About 550 inhabitants left this historic region of Kuhländchen (Czech: Kravařsko) in the east of the Czech Republic. Information about this can be found at the website below.

As we approach Refugee Week, 20-26th June 2022, it is sad to reflect on how many refugees on different continents of our world are on the move, and at a time when Ukrainian refugees are now staying in Herrnhut. Each is a person like us with family, friends, hopes and faith; as a refugee each is facing the same three challenges faced by the brothers and sisters who set out from Sehlen.

[www.moravian.cz/Exulantis\\_EN.aspx](http://www.moravian.cz/Exulantis_EN.aspx)

**Sr Mary Holmes**

*Fulneck*



© Sr Jill Vogt



© Sr Jane Carter

## Moravian Women's Association (MWA) Day

After much planning and eager anticipation, it was a big disappointment when our annual Moravian Women's Association (MWA) Day had to be cancelled in 2020 because of COVID and lockdown. But, ever hopeful of everything returning to normal, plans for 2021 went ahead until it was realised that things were not returning to normal, and we would not be able to have our gathering, so a service on Zoom was held. It was a lovely occasion and everyone who joined in enjoyed it and looked forward to us all being together, face to face in 2022.

However, it was not to be. Despite COVID restrictions being lifted it was recognised that many of our ladies would still be reluctant to travel so, once more a service on Zoom was held, last Saturday, 30th April.

All who were able to access the wonders of technology, with the help of our technical expert (Sr Jane Carter) joined in together in churches, halls and homes to give thanks for our MWA organisation and to worship our Chief Elder, Jesus Christ.

It was a lovely time of fellowship and friendship.

We in Royton joined from our church, together with sisters from Salem. Despite technical difficulties - our technocrat (me) struggling to access the internet - we took part in singing lustily hymns: 'Jesus is Lord,' 'Be thou my vision' and the MWA hymn. We listened intently to Sr Gillian Taylor, our President as she gave her report from the Central Committee meetings held via Zoom the previous day.

Despite circles not being able to hold their usual fund-raising events there was enough money in the pot to fulfil our commitments to projects decided upon at 2021 Central Committee meetings.

So, £500 will be sent to support Br David Howarth on his mission to Labrador, £500 via the Unity Women's Desk to the Czech Province providing refuge for Ukrainians fleeing the war, and £250 each to Canine Partners, Peter Doody, Jacob's Wells and Action for Children.

Information on all these projects will be sent to circles in due course, as will notice of those which are planned for support

during 2022/23. Supporting these projects would not have been possible without the generosity of our members.

Sr Gillian also announced our theme for 2022/23 - it will be an amalgamation of suggestions from our circles and will be 'A Time for Everything'.

Sr Carol Acker was invited to give the address on the 2019/20 theme 'Wonder Women, then and Now', at the 2020 service. She had found a 'Wonder Women' T-shirt which she had intended wearing but, of course, that service was cancelled so we were very pleased when she agreed to speak at our service last Saturday.

She spoke on our current theme, 'Dreams and Visions' taking our reading from Joel Ch. 2, v 21-32. as background. Carol mentioned well known visions: Mary, when she was told she would bear God's son, and John whose writings in Revelation tell of really vivid dreams and visions. She spoke of the hope given to the people by Joel in 400BC which helped to change lives, and how COVID has changed our lives over these last three years and how it has impacted on our churches and organisations.

People like Eileen Shaw and Olive Linyard had visions for the future when they began our MWA in 1950. Visions which with love and hard work have come to fruition. They had a vision of women joined together to encourage leadership, promoting knowledge and the love of God, and as Carol noted, we still do.

Carol noted how society and our way of life has changed, impacting on our MWA.

She wished us well in our Decade of Evangelism and our hope to reach as many people as possible in our diverse society.

This lovely time of fellowship ended, as do all our gatherings, with the Mizpah and with an exhortation to 'put it in your diary' the date of the next gathering - a full day of activities and worship at Fairfield on Saturday 15th October 2022, with tea and cake to sustain us on our journey home.

**Sr Lesley Benedek**





◀ The last Provincial Synod at The Hayes Conference Centre in 2018  
© Br Kenneth Evans

# What is Synod?

What's Synod like? I've been asked this quite a few times and my answer has probably evolved over the years. My first Synod was in 1992 at Ockbrook and it was a very strange experience for me. I was a minute secretary alongside Br Kenneth Evans taking longhand entries of the actions and decisions of Synod under the scrutiny of Br Mortimore and the Clerkship of Br Ingham in the Birtill Hall. It was my first experience as a Deputy for Priors Marston and my multitasking skills were not quite honed at that stage so I may have missed some of the finer points of that Synod. Over the years I have attended as a deputy, an assistant clerk, clerk, observer, teller, student minister, minister, and minute secretary (typing this time) both physically and on Zoom; so I've seen it from every angle. This year will be a different view again as I attend as minister (between calls) but also as Vice-Chair. As you can see, there are many roles involved at Synod and many procedures and protocols to learn and follow. One thing you are unlikely to be at Synod is bored; tired maybe, but not bored.

So who can go to Synod? Well ministers and the PEC (Provincial Elders Conference) have an automatic place (ex-officio) at Synod as do the Advocatus Fratrum and Secretarius Fratrum. Deputies from congregations are elected by the Congregation Council and whilst they represent the congregation they vote under their own conscience. Officers are appointed to deal with the administrative tasks and a Chairing Team are elected by Synod for the following Synod. Guests are invited from other denominations and the Unity. Only ex-officio members and elected deputies have voting rights. There are usually about 60+ people in attendance overall.

After an opening worship service Synodals are introduced to the Programme of Business which has been sent out a couple of weeks ahead to allow homework to be done as all reports are taken as read. As each report is received delegates have the opportunity to ask relevant questions of the presenters. Then relevant proposals are also presented. Proposals can relate to the Book of Order, the constitution of the church or to other matters of a spiritual, social, or even political concern in relation to church. Delegates can speak in favour of or against proposals and a ballot is taken. If the votes reach the required majority the proposal will become a passed resolution, or it will be lost. This is a simplified explanation as a proposal can sometimes

be amended through the same voting process and may look very different from the original proposal. Some reports are received as Memorials. These are reports of organisations which are not under the direct governance of Synod like the Moravian Women's Association and the Men's Fellowship.

Occasionally there will be special sessions where there is an opportunity to engage in discussion about a subject relevant to the church at large. These have included the Schools, Mission, Church Growth and Human Sexuality.

On the evening before the close of Synod there is a Communion Service where one of the invited guests may lead or take part in the worship. This year will be particularly special as it will also be a service of Consecration for Br Jared Stephens who has come to the Moravian Church as an ordained minister. This affirmation of Br Jared's ministry alongside his peers and in the presence of Synod is a rare and joyous occasion these days. Interestingly at my first Synod in 1992 Sr Kathryn Woolford was ordained at Ockbrook.

Once the majority of reports have been presented the business moves on to elections. There are a number of standing committees elected at Synod. These committees meet during the period between Synods and have many roles which compliment, supplement and enhance the work of the church and aid the management of the Province through the PEC. The PEC are themselves elected at Synod. Nominations are received mostly prior to Synod but can be received at Synod until the day prior the elections beginning. The Committees are Finance, Church Service, Church Book, Faith and Order and Ecumenical Relations, Mission and Society, World Mission and Youth and Children's. You don't have to be at Synod to be nominated so the pool is wide. You can serve on a maximum of two committees, and it is an opportunity to use your gifts, talents and skills, whatever your experience, to serve the church in a different way outside of the congregation. Terms of office are usually two or four years and the maximum terms of office for a committee is 12 years. There is one other kind of election at Synod and that is the election of a Bishop. First a proposal is brought that a Bishop should be elected. Once this is passed there are no formal written nominations. Nominations come from the delegates at Synod through the leading of the Holy

Spirit. I have been present (often counting the votes) at the election of four Bishops, and it is a very moving experience.

Elections have in the past taken up an inordinate amount of time; handwritten ballot papers, tellers physically counting and reporting back results while Synod may have moved onto another report or election. If the results are not conclusive there may be additional rounds of voting. Last year when Synod took place over Zoom the electronic form of voting at the press of a button was one innovation which we hope to be able to replicate in the physical setting making the process much simpler and quicker.

Overall, the meetings are conducted over 4-5 days, usually over an extended weekend in a Christian Conference centre. In between the business sessions there are breaks for tea, coffee, and meals. In my experience it is often at these 'sessions' that some of the most interesting discussions take place and where friendships are made and renewed. I've also seen a few arms twisted towards nomination for a committee or two over coffee, or something stronger in the bar later!

One other highlight (for some!) is the official Synod photograph. Maybe these examples will speak for themselves.

Over my 30 years of Synod experiences, I have found attending in a variety of capacities very rewarding. So much of my knowledge of the church, both congregationally, Provincially and throughout the Unity has come from Synod. Synod is every member's opportunity to step out from the confines of the local congregation to share our concerns for the church at large alongside fellow Christians. I hope you might feel more encouraged to put yourself forward to be a deputy (for a future Synod) or a member of one of the committees. As we all seek new and creative ways to serve the Lord in our time, maybe this could be yours.

**Sr Jane Carter**  
Synod Vice Chair



## British Mission Board (BMB) News



Haflong Train Station

Northeastern India, including large parts of Assam have experienced heavy rainfall and the Brahmaputra River burst its banks impacting more than 1,900 villages. Communication has been affected but we have received brief updates from each of our Moravian communities through Pastor Jacob Gangmei:

**Haflong** has been severely impacted, and the train station has been destroyed, severely limiting the connection with the surrounding region. Several congregation members have moved into the new Church that is under construction as their homes have been directly in the path of the floods. The flood risk remains in place for now and the price of goods and essential items are becoming very expensive as it is very difficult to access the village.

**Latingkhal:** the river water level is increasing day by day, if the rain is continuing the floods will reach the village. Families are slowly preparing to move to nearby hilly region. Unfortunately, the mobile network too is down. So unable to get in touch with them regularly.

**Slichar and the Barak valley:** some parts of the city are becoming flooded, with roads being impacted by rising waters. Schools and business are closing as people begin to take shelter. A Moravian family in the city has been seriously impacted has their house filled with water and they are having to evacuate.



Binnakandi

**Binnakandi:** The village is on a highlight ground level than other villages in the area however the water level is rising and there is a risk of flooding in the coming days.

**The British Mission Board will be keeping in touch with our brother and sisters**

**over the coming weeks. Please keep all communities impacted in prayer, as the flood waters recede, and the extent of the damage is assessed. We will keep you updated on the best way to support our brothers and sisters in the months ahead.**

If you would like to make a donation to support the Moravian Church in Assam respond to the flooding crisis, you can do so through Church House by:

**Card payment:** please telephone Church House on 020 8883 3409 who can take payment over the phone.

**Cash:** donations to your local congregation.

**Cheques:** should be made payable to Moravian Union Inc.

**Bank transfer:** 40-52-40 Acc # 00023436. Please use reference: South Asia Floods.



# What I Believe

Moravian Messenger Editor, Sr Sarah Groves  
interviews Sr Joy Raynor

## ***A short piece on your background***

I am the oldest of four, with two sisters and a brother. I learnt to knit from Mum and got my politics from my Dad. I've been married for a long time and have two children, one a father to two gorgeous boys, and one still living at home (a boomerang child). I loved school, left at 18 and went to Manchester University.

## ***How and when did you come to faith?***

I think I have always had faith. My parents sent us to Sunday School every week and I was confirmed at 12. I also attended Girls Brigade and although I don't remember prayers etc. I do remember the leaders being women of faith. Even when I was too old for the provision I still needed to go to church, to connect with God and with other Christians.

## ***How does this faith play a real part in your life?***

I feel my faith is such an integral part of me I can't see where it plays a part. Maybe it is just that I feel my whole life is worship and God is in everything I do?

## ***What was your career path before starting work for the Moravian Church?***

I was a Training Officer in a Microbiology department in the local NHS hospital and had started there as a trainee 29 years before.

## ***What led you to offer to work as the Youth and Children's Officer for the Moravian Church?***

I was a Brownie leader and a volunteer children's worker running a holiday club every summer and a weekly children's nurture group, and as the children grew older a youth group on a Sunday. While praying I felt a really strong sense that God was calling me to work full time for the kingdom as a youth and children's leader. To test if this was really a calling or just my fanciful thoughts, I decided that in 2007 I would test God, basically saying that if I didn't get a suitable post that year, I would develop my laboratory career. I got the post with the Moravian Church in the November.

## ***You have done further study over recent years - what was it and why did you feel it was important?***

I believe that study continues throughout life so have always done courses. Probably the OU degree in Children's and Youth Studies was the most important. I often use that knowledge in my day-to-day work. I also brag that I have both a BSc and a BA!

## ***What has been your greatest joy in this ministry?***

There have been so many joyous times I can't really identify one - summer camp, watching young leaders grow and develop,



building relationships with other children and youth leaders, seeing the development of the European youth leaders' meetings, watching young people achieve things they thought they couldn't, seeing camp friendships grow, and all the friendships I have made in the Moravian Church.

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

I am not afraid to die but I am a bit afraid of the dying - it can be painful and undignified. I pray that I can die well when my time comes.

## ***Do you believe in a resurrection, and if so, what will it be like?***

There is much about faith I'm unsure of and I'm old enough to know that I'll never understand God and his ways, we just have to accept that not everything can be explained.

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

I think people don't think they have time to go to church, or rather they prioritise other things. It always amazes me how many people will say they believe in God but don't have any connection with a faith community. I think safeguarding scandals have had an impact on the view people take of the church. I find it interesting that events that happened in churches, often a long time ago, are reported but recent events in other contexts seem to be reduced to a minor matter, even when it is widespread such as in sport. Families may feel judged when they come to church, not find a service where their children can be happy, be unsure of the language we use, the songs we sing, and the general feeling that this is an alien place.

## ***The place where you feel closest to God?***

The Peak District, but I can feel close to God anywhere. Attending Evensong always makes me feel closer to God, and a spiritual renewal.

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

I think the important thing is the legacy you leave in people's lives, the love you gave, the fun you had, things you taught them and the impact you made.

## ***Finally, any major regrets and major joys in your life?***

There is no point in having regrets, what ifs can make the present seem second best. Major joys - difficult to pin down as I try to live up to my name but probably my children and grandchildren, including my friend's adopted children for whom I am a grandmother figure. Life is full of little joys, that delicious cake, finishing something you are making, a hug, seeing family, going to see a musical/play/concert, and so many more things.

# Br Harry Bintley (1932-2022)

Br Harry Bintley, who died on 6th April 2022, aged 89, was a faithful member and servant of the Moravian Church, at the congregational, District and Provincial level.

Living just across the road, Harry attended Salem Moravian Church from childhood, and remained a valued and very active member of the congregation throughout his life.

As a boy, Harry attended Hulme Grammar School in Oldham. He went on to study at Manchester University, where he completed a science degree in 1953 and then trained for ordained ministry in the Moravian Church. Part of that training took place at the Moravian Theological College at Fairfield, Droylsden, Manchester, when it reopened in 1954, with Br Jim Lewis as the Principal.

Harry served as a student minister in the Bath Coronation Avenue congregation in 1955 and was ordained as a deacon at Salem Moravian Church in 1956, following which he became minister of the St Peter's Bedford congregation.

Harry later worked for Ferranti, International Computers & Tabulators (ICT) and International Computers Ltd (ICL), in electronics and later, computers. He also worked for a short while, for the Manchester Evening News newspaper, setting up a computer system.

Harry married Jean at Salem Moravian Church in 1957, who was also a faithful and dedicated member of the Moravian Church. We offer our deepest sympathy to their two children, David and Katherine, the grandchildren and all the family.

Harry loved science and computers, and to the end of his life would discuss all sorts of subjects at a deep level. He had an IQ of 190 - I believe the average IQ for a person is 100 - and was able to put that gift to good use.

Salem Moravian Church had a working electric organ and if there was a problem

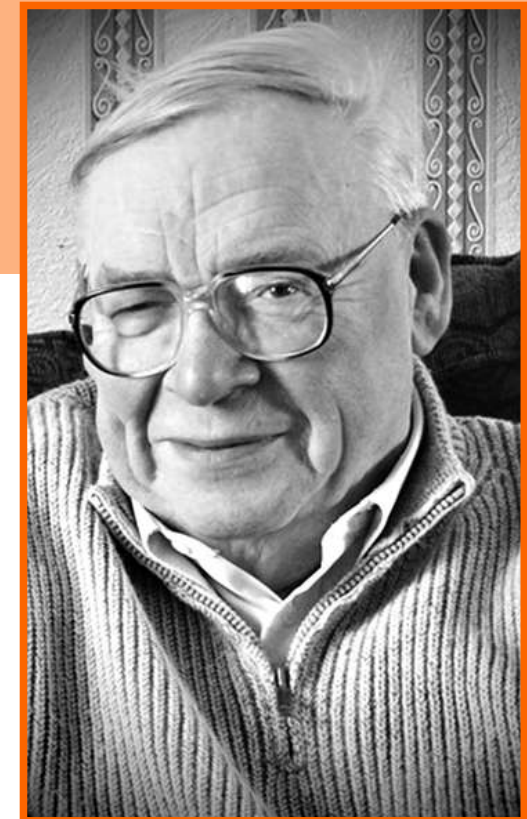
with the organ it would be Harry, along with Br Geoffrey Tilson, who would sort it out. In later years, Harry would sometimes enlist the help of his son, David. Harry would also make sure that the hymn tunes that the congregation knew were chosen for the worship services each Sunday.

Harry built the music/hymn computer system at Salem Moravian Church - a system which has been used for several years now, to accompany the singing of the hymns at worship services, funerals, etc.

When I was quite new to using a computer for my work, I would sometimes telephone Harry when I encountered a problem, and he was always very happy to help. In the late 1990s, he designed a computer system for the headquarters of the Moravian Church at Moravian Church House, Muswell Hill, in London. He actually built one or two of his own computers and televisions as a hobby, and also enjoyed reading, doing puzzles, and playing solitaire on the computer.

As I said at beginning of this article, Harry attended Salem Moravian Church throughout his life, and his Christian faith and the Moravian Church were very important to him.

He conducted many worship services over the years. Having been ordained as a minister, he would sometimes be asked to preside at Holy Communion Services in the Lancashire District of the Moravian Church, when a congregation was without a minister. This was particularly true of Salem Moravian Church, during



© David Bintley

times when the congregation experienced an interregnum, including the most recent interregnum, right up until the time of his death. In 2007 and 2008, Harry served as the interim minister of Salem Moravian Church.

Harry served on the Salem Church Committee for many years, and for part of his tenure on the committee he was Minute Secretary. He was also Salem Moravian Church's deputy on the Lancashire District Conference until he died. Due to ill-health, he was unable attend the last meeting of the conference in March, and sent his apologies to the Minute Secretary, where he remarked that it was the first such conference that he could remember missing.

As author of 'Salem Moravian Church : 1827-1974 A Brief History' the congregation printed copies of his work in 1974.

For several years, Harry was Salem Moravian Church's deputy to our Provincial Synod and served on a number of Provincial Committees. One such committee, we served on together, and I have fond memories of the journeys we made together in my car, to the meetings of that committee, in Ockbrook and London. I drove and Harry navigated - we made a good team.

Harry was a gentleman. He was a lovely, kind man. We give thanks for his life and all that he has contributed to the life of the Moravian Church over so many years.

**Br Philip Cooper**  
Minister at Fairfield Moravian Church



## Cliftonville, Belfast

We shared a recent Bible Study by Zoom with members of University Road congregation led by Brs Jared Stephens, Len Broadbent and Livingstone Thompson and were joined by Moravians from the Caribbean and Suriname and friends from USA. We also had joint readings by Zoom on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week but had separate Communion services and Good Friday liturgy in University Road and Cliftonville.

As has been the practice for a good many years, members met to decorate the Cross with yellow roses that was placed in Church on Easter Sunday and afterwards fixed by the church



entrance for the following two weeks. The time of fellowship over tea and biscuits continues to be a valuable part of our Sunday after the service.

The Belfast Marathon this year was run along roads leading to the church so the service in church on the 1st May was cancelled and organised on Zoom.

We welcomed Avery Anne Boreland, baby daughter of Kirsten and Stewart Boreland and great-grand-daughter of Sr Winnie Boreland, by infant baptism on 10th April.

**Sr Edna Cooper**

© Br John Cooper

## Coronation Avenue, Bath



© Sr Sandy Smith

On Easter Sunday we held a wonderful celebration as it was our organist, Brenda Griffin's 80th Birthday.

After our Easter Day Service, led by Rev Paul Holdsworth, we gathered in the hall for a 'do' to celebrate Brenda's Birthday which actually coincided with Easter Day. We all had a lovely afternoon tea party with a Birthday cake, sandwiches, scones and lots of cakes.

Brenda had cards and presents and had a lovely time with us all.

Brenda has been our organist for many years and we are really grateful as we appreciate how lucky our small congregation is to have such a talented organist as well as a writer of poems and music.

**Sr Sandy Smith**

## Fetter Lane, London

### Supporting an arts-based pioneer ministry

Our minister at Fetter Lane, Claire Maxwell, spends half her time developing a pioneer ministry, called Lamb's Way, a name related to the scripture reference in Luke 12:32: 'Have no fear little flock, for your father has chosen to give you the Kingdom'. While technically separate from her Congregation work, there is much overlap and a few of us, as well as people outside the Congregation, meet to plan events that respond to what we know about the local community, a community that displays some of the largest health and wealth disparities in the country.

One such response was a three-day Easter event held over the Palm Sunday weekend. Starting small on Friday, the under-fives group based on the World's End Estate used Moravian Close with its lovely green space and burial ground surrounded by Tudor walls, for games and storytelling. Saturday combined a sit-down afternoon tea (beautiful cupcakes and tasty sandwiches) with Easter crafts led by our neighbour Barbara Afua who helped children to paint Easter eggs and other festive decorations. The afternoon ended with a sing-along led by Darren Edwards otherwise known as DJ D Sharp on keyboard, and Barbara's son Samuel, a gifted musician himself. Alternating between hymns and ABBA, everyone felt able to join in.

After the Palm Sunday service a group of visitors gathered



© Sr Claire Maxwell

around David Allen, ace storyteller, for his tale of journeys into the unknown, based on his refugee grandparents. The story was called 'Love Always Wins' and highlighted the importance of the kindness of strangers as they (and we) travel through life.

During Passion Week, Claire placed written prompts around the Close - also a garden - as a reminder of Christ's final days on Earth, inviting visitors to reflect on their own experiences and the place of God in their lives. These events aim to break down the walls between the Church and the neighbourhood where its bricks and mortar lie. It's always uplifting to meet new people and greet those we've met before. Using art as a vehicle is especially apt in an area like Chelsea and we're looking forward to helping Claire with future events as part of the Lamb's Way Ministry.

**Sr Cynthia Dize**

# Bilateral Bishop's Conference



© Sr Sarah Groves

Every two years there is a bilateral Bishop's Conference between the Bishops from the British Province and the European Continental Province (ECP). COVID had caused disruption in this sequence of face-to-face meetings and during the pandemic the two sets of Bishops had met regularly on Zoom to keep abreast of what was happening in each Province and across the world. However, it was wonderful to finally be able to meet again in person from the 26th-27th April

The conference was held in Zeist, a town in Utrecht, Netherlands. Zeist has a Moravian Settlement, established in 1746 that was built around two squares immediately in front of Zeist Palace. Our meetings were held in what was originally the housing for the horse drawn carriages which have been converted into a congregation meeting room.

Br Joachim Kreusel and Sr Sarah Groves travelled to Zeist but for health reasons Br John McOwat could not travel but was able to join in part of the meeting by Zoom. The ECP bishops were Br Theo Clemens, Br Frieder Waas, Br Humbert Hessen and Br Volker Schultz and they were accompanied by their wives who have obviously built-up strong bonds of friendship over the years.

The conference was a mixture of information sharing and worship. The

opening worship was led by the British Bishops using the texts for the day and the blue Morning Prayers booklet produced some years ago by the Renewal Committee. We joined the congregation for lunchtime prayers on the 27th and Br Volker Schultz led us in a challenging Bible Study on Matthew 5:43-48, love your enemies be perfect, which is very pertinent in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine - you will not be surprised to learn that we came to no consensus but explored our own perspectives in the light of the Gospel.

Information sessions included an update on the work in South Asia, which was accompanied by many pictures that Joachim had taken on his visit. We heard about the situation in the ECP from a member of their Provincial Board, Johannes Welschen and of particular concern is the number of ministers due to retire in the coming years which echoed concerns in the British Province. They were interested in our lay training programme for Worship Leaders as there has been traditionally more reliance on ministers in the ECP than in the British Province.

It was wonderful to get an update on the work of ZYG, the mission society of the Moravian Church in the Netherlands. Much information about their work can be found on their website, Google 'ZYG Mission

Netherlands'. We learnt that there is much concern about the Moravian Church in Suriname. A major concern is the lack of maintenance on Brokopondo Dam which has led to flooding and the displacement of villages in the vicinity. These villages were created for the inhabitants who were displaced when the dam was first created so people have been deeply affected by this second displacement.

27th April is King's Day in the Netherlands, so we were able to see the town draped in orange flags and watch the Mayor of Zeist, the town band and large crowd gather outside the Town Hall for speeches and music. Later that day we went on a visit to the Zeist Moravian Museum and a guided tour around the settlement and Church with the local minister, Br Stefan Bernhard. The information shared at the conference was wonderful and so was the fellowship. Our evening meals were provided by members of the congregation, and it gave us a chance to relax and chat with them. The conference left us with lots of questions, opportunities for sharing good practise and much to pray about. Please contact me if you would like further information.

**Sr Sarah Groves**

*Bishop and Minister of Gracehill Moravian Church*

## From Church House

### Provincial Diary for June

- 13-14 Provincial Board (Church House)
- 16 Church Service Committee (online)
- 18 300th Anniversary and Project 32 Service (online)
- 25 Provincial Men's Fellowship Day (Leominster Moravian Church)

## Congregational Register

### Reception into Membership

10 April 2022 Glynn Dickinson Gomersal

### Confirmation

10 April 2022 Lisa Dickinson Gomersal

### Death

6th April 2022 Harry Bintley Salem

18th April 2022 Arthur Brown Royton

3rd March 2022 Margaret Hine Royton

2	Spring Bank Holiday
3	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday
5	World Environment Day ( <a href="http://www.worldenvironmentday.global">www.worldenvironmentday.global</a> ) Pentecost Shavuot - Jewish
6	Whit Monday
12	Trinity Sunday
15-21	Refugee Week ( <a href="http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk">www.refugeeweek.org.uk</a> )
17	Renewal of the Brethren's Church: beginning of the building of Herrnhut by the immigrants from Moravia in 1722
19	Father's Day
21	Summer Solstice
22	Windrush Day
26	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture ( <a href="http://www.un.org/en/events/torturevictimsday/">www.un.org/en/events/torturevictimsday/</a> )

*Dates to remember!*

## Notices

### Provincial Online Service for 17th June Memorial Day

A service to mark the Memorial Day for the 300th anniversary of the renewal of the Brethren's Church and the founding of Herrnhut will be held on Zoom on Friday 17th June at 1pm. The service will include contributions from around the British Province, from South Asia, and from Herrnhut. The Zoom details will be available from ministers and secretaries.

### Property to Let at Fulneck

A one bedroomed, mid-terrace house at 23 Fulneck, Pudsey is now available to let at £650 p.c.m.

Further information and application forms are available from the property agent Mr John Forrester, who can be contacted by telephone at: 01772 421566; or by email: [info@johnforrester.co.uk](mailto:info@johnforrester.co.uk). Applications forms to be returned to Mr Forrester by 5.00pm on 7th June 2022.



# Leicester Moravian Congregation



© Br Joachim Kreusel

## Open to All - Closed to None - Celebrating God's Love

Moravians from the Caribbean settled in Leicester and began to worship together on 18th November 1962, for a good number of years as Society, and then settled as a congregation on 1st October 1976.

The Leicester Moravian congregation has been warmly welcomed into Wesley Hall Methodist Church where we have worshipped ever since, and regard it as our home, not only for church services, but also for other events.

We pride ourselves on welcoming all people from every walk of life. Before the COVID pandemic hit the nation, Leicester was always successful at fund raising events, such as the Moravian Anniversary Dinners held in November. They were always popular events due to the large banquet of West Indian cuisines that brought the crowds back every year. We also had games and food events, sponsored walks, coffee mornings and various ad hoc events. We are also pleased that we can share special occasions with our Methodist sisters and brothers.

Bishop Joachim Kreusel together with the Church Committee leads our congregation, which consists of a large contingent of the Caribbean community, along with people from other walks of life. We have recently welcomed friends from India, who attend on many occasions.

We have a close bond with the Ockbrook Congregation. We've been to Ockbrook for garden parties and other events, and now we can even worship together on certain occasions via Zoom. Our Sunday services are on Sundays at 2.30pm, personally in Wesley Hall Church, and via Zoom.

Our Congregation has been greatly affected by the pandemic, as many of our members are more senior. However, due to technology (Zoom and YouTube) some members are able to take part in services this way. As the restrictions are lifting to a

greater extent, it is hoped that these members will return to services in the building.

Even though we have not had as many events as we would have liked, we were able to celebrate our 45th Church Anniversary on 21st November 2021, the Christingle service and other special services throughout the year.

Although we have a wonderful past, our eyes are also fixed onto GOD'S GREAT FUTURE.

**Sr Jacqueline Walker**

Next door to Wesley Hall church is the old Sunday school building which is used as a Community Centre for many years.

The Centre helps us to connect with the local community.

I would like to highlight a very recent event: the opening of two Food Pantries, one at Wesley Hall Community Centre, and the other one at All Saints' Church in Leicester Belgrave, on Saturday 9th April 2022.

Whilst throughout the pandemic the Wesley Hall Centre has run a food bank three times a week with up to 250 people coming, there is now a transitioning process from food bank to food pantry. The latter means that people can become members and pay a small fee, and in return can choose a certain amount of fresh, frozen or other food, about four times the value of the fee.

'Your local Pantry' has grown out of a movement which is 'Church Action against Poverty'. This is based on the insight that all people are equal in the eyes of God.

What a joyful occasion it was in both places!

**Br Joachim Kreusel**

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