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Consecration at Synod

One of the most significant moments at the Provincial Synod last month was the consecration of Br Jared Stephens as Presbyter at the Synod Communion Service. The service was held on a very warm Sunday evening in the Chapel at Swanwick in Derbyshire. Jared's chosen hymns, 'All my hope on God is founded' and 'And can it be' opened and closed his consecration. The Bible reading from Amos 8: 9-12 was given by Sr Betsy Miller, the Chair of the American Northern Province, and Sr Claire Maxwell who is the minister of the Fetter Lane Congregation and a pioneer minister in Lambs Way Ministry read from Colossians 1:24-28.

Sr Roberta Hoey, Chair of the Provincial Board presented Br Jared for consecration and Br Livingstone Thompson, minister of the University Road and Kilwarlin congregations and a member of the Provincial Board preached the sermon. Br Joachim Kreusel was the ordaining bishop assisted by Br John McOwat. The Bible was presented by Br John Cooper from Cliftonville and Br Henry Wilson from Ballinderry.

Br John McOwat and Br Joachim Kreusel jointly presided at Holy Communion which followed the consecration and the elements were served by Sr Christine Emanuel and Br Jared Stephens. The pianist throughout the service was Br James Woolford.

It is unusual for consecrations to take place at Synod, but it was

felt appropriate this time as Br Jared was being received as a Moravian minister in the three-fold order of ministry. Br Jared has served the Moravian Church as minister of Ballinderry and Cliftonville Churches since 2018 and it was his earnest desire to enter fully into the Moravian ministry.

Br Jared came to the Moravian Church as a fully ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church. He trained for the ministry at Princetown Theological Seminary in New Jersey. During that time he served a year's internship at Groomsport Presbyterian Church in Co Down in Northern Ireland. It was there that he met Sr Elaine who was later to become his wife. Br Jared gained a Master's Degree in Divinity in 2011 and then went on to serve his first pastorate in a church in upstate New York.

He returned to Northern Ireland and married Sr Elaine in 2013 at Bangor Abbey. Br Jared went on to serve for a few years in the Presbyterian Church in Co Antrim. It was in Belfast that Br Jared met Br Henry Wilson and then later Sr Sarah Groves. Br Jared soon became a welcome visitor to our churches and pulpits and following conversations with the Provincial Board he was appointed as minister at Cliftonville and Ballinderry. We pray God's blessing on Br Jared and Sr Elaine in his continuing ministry and on their life together with us in the Moravian Church.

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You are Very Welcome

There is a lovely phrase that is used in Northern Ireland by people, particularly in the countryside, when you visit their home - it is 'You are very welcome'. It is said with real feeling. On hearing it for the first time I felt like such an honoured guest, and I still feel that every time I hear the words.

There have been many positive vibes that have come out from our Synod in July, one of which is the relationship with the Church of Ireland, which will be reported on more fully in another issue. The other is this statement which was passed by Synod about welcome:

'We believe all people are made in the image of God and are loved by God. We welcome all people, who seek to be faithful to the gospel, into the life and membership of the Moravian Church; and we are grateful for the talents and gifts that they offer in the service of God's kingdom.'

We believe in an inclusive church - a church which celebrates and affirms the value of every person and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexuality, learning disability, mental health, or neurodiversity.

We believe in a church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp 'how wide and long and high

and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

We recognise our imperfections and are still working with the holy spirit to overcome barriers to inclusivity and further discrimination on our journey with God.'

This statement has echoes in the Ground of the Unity, the doctrinal position of the worldwide Moravian Church adopted in 1957 following the experiences of the Second World War. *'The Church of Jesus Christ, despite all the distinctions between male and female, Jew and non-Jew, white and colored, poor and rich, is one in its Lord.'*

Even more importantly for me it resonates with Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel: *'Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'*

Surely this is everything we want our Churches to be, a place where people feel welcome, safe and accepted. Not a place apart for the perfect but a shelter for all of us imperfect as we all are, broke, and broken, thirsty and limping, sighing and crying as well as laughing and singing.

So come and join us to follow Jesus together, whoever you are and how ever you are, you will be very welcome!



Sr Sarah Groves
Editorial Team

A glossary of terms from Project 32

A lot will be going on following Synod this year, so the Project 32 Implementation Board thought it may be helpful if we set out some of the terminology we use.

Terms when talking about Project Management:

- **Collaboration** - with other committees doing work within the British Province.
- **Outcomes** - what we expect to see as a result of Project 32.
- **Programme** - a series of projects which link together to create a longer term and wider scale change.
- **Project** - a piece of work which creates a change in structures, activities, thinking, and just about anything else!
- **Scope** - what is within the remit or outside the remit of the project or programme.
- **Stakeholder** - someone who is affected by the work of the project or programme.
- **Stakeholder Engagement** - a process to identify who is a stakeholder, find out the best way to speak to them, then to go and speak to them!

When talking about the Principles of Project 32:

- **Magnify** - We Celebrate God's presence in worship.
- **Mission** - We communicate God's Word through evangelism.
- **Membership** - We incorporate God's people into our Moravian fellowship.
- **Maturity** - We educate God's people through discipleship.
- **Ministry** - We demonstrate God's love through service to our Church and our community.

Checking in from last month

Hopefully you have gained a bit of insight, from the above explanations, into the work of Project 32.

Checking in with you from last month's Project 32 Messenger Article - did you manage to try something new? If you did, how did it make you feel? Were you uncomfortable or were you excited to be experiencing something different?

This month, I would like you to try and do something different with a few people from your congregation. It is often a different endeavour when we try and do something with others as there are more than one opinion or perspective to consider! This could be having a prayer meeting, meeting up for something to eat (other than where or what you usually eat!), or visiting a place of interest which you haven't been to before.

So, try to do something new with a few people from your congregation to get a sense of how it can be more complicated to make a change collectively with others, and again, be mindful of how you feel during the activity and we will see how you have got on next month!

Br Stephen Maxwell

Chair of the Project 32 Implementation Board. In his day job, he is an emergency planning officer for the NHS in London, and a member of the Fetter Lane Congregation.



Men's Fellowship Day



© Br Edwin Quildan

The Provincial Men's Fellowship of the Moravian Church met this year at Leominster for their annual Fellowship Day on the 25th June. It was a glorious day weather wise, and the warmth of the day was matched only by the warmth of the welcome we received on arriving at Leominster, a hot cup of tea and a plate of appetising biscuits awaited us in the Sunday School room.

Following our arrival, the cup of tea and the renewal of acquaintances from three years ago since we last met, we moved into Church for our Fellowship Rally. Opening devotions were led by Br Evans as the President of the Provincial Men's Fellowship, this included the singing of 'When we walk with the Lord', followed by prayer and text for the day. Sr Shorten then welcomed the Provincial Men's Fellowship to Leominster for their rally and Br Evans shared greetings he had received from the Provincial Board and from the MWA, wishing them a time of blessing and of fellowship. Br Evans informed the gathering that an invitation had been received from the Royton congregation for 2023, thus enabling the Men's Fellowship to move around the Province and share fellowship in as many congregations as possible. We concluded our devotions with singing of 'O Lord my God' and it was marvellous to hear the

singing, even with the small number present.

We then welcomed our speaker, Sr Lorraine Parsons, the Moravian Church Archivist from Church House. Lorraine was speaking to us about Captain Jackson, 'The Last Captain of the Harmony'. It was a very enjoyable, interesting and informative talk which was illustrated by a power point presentation showing Captain Jackson, the Harmony, a map of many of the places he sailed to in Labrador, the Harmony stuck in pack ice, Captain Jackson's Master's certificate and an invitation to the thanksgiving meeting for the safe return of the Harmony given by the Moravian Missions in 1902 and 1904. It was appropriate to talk of the voyagers of Captain Jackson as we were meeting in Leominster, and he is laid to rest there in God's Acre.

Following the talk, we had a short quiz arranged by Sr Parsons and a time for any questions. These were limited as Sr Parsons had covered a great deal in her talk. There followed a short break before we sung the Men's Fellowship doxology written for us in 1999 by Br Paul Gubi, 'Give praise to God who reigns above' during which an offertory was taken towards the costs of the day and the

Men's Fellowship projects.

Sr Lorraine Shorten then presided at the celebration of Holy Communion as we met around the Lord's table, which traditionally culminated in the right hand of Fellowship as a sign of our unity and our oneness in Christ.

We enjoyed further fellowship as we retired to the Sunday School room to eat our refreshments and enjoy a welcome cup of tea. Today has been a wonderful day of learning, laughter and fellowship and we thank Sr Lorraine Parsons, our speaker for the most interesting and informative talk, Sr Lorraine Shorten, our minister for the organisation and welcome we received, and a really grateful thanks to the sisters for the welcome cup of tea as we arrived and another as we ate our tea and departed for home. A tiring day, but a very refreshing day in many other ways, thanks to the fellowship and the hospitality we received.

We had all the Men's Fellowship goodies out for sale, and we had one addition to the range, a new Lamb and Flag badge at a cost of £3, these can be obtained from Br Evans at kenneth.evans10@icloud.com

Br Kenneth Evans

Eastern District Conference 2022

Spring Fellowship Meeting

EDC met at Hornsey on Sunday 29th May at 3pm after the morning service in the hall. The Hornsey congregation is thanked for their hospitality on the day. This was the first time that EDC was able to meet in person since the lockdowns due to the pandemic that commenced in 2019. It was good to share refreshments, news and fellowship in person.

Br Michael Newman welcomed everyone to Hornsey and Br Edwin Quildan welcomed everyone to the EDC and then led the opening devotions which commenced with the singing of 'Immortal invisible God only wise'.

Sr Roberta Hoey was welcomed to the meeting and acknowledged as the new Chair of the Unity Board. Sr Roberta gave a presentation on the Unity and the welcome given to the Ukrainian refugees by various Moravian Provinces plus noted the Unity refugee statement of 2016.

Sr Claire Maxwell gave a presentation on the Pioneering ministry and stressed that a team needs to be formed. We were reminded of the concepts and the various models of Pioneering ministry (which included Café and Messy Church). The importance of making God's story central was also noted.

Br Michael and Sr Claire Newman gave a presentation on Br Michael's recent sabbatical, which involved visits to various closed Moravian Churches and locations in England and Wales. EDC appreciated the information which has now been combined into a book called 'A tour of Former Moravian Churches in England and Wales' (available from Church House).

Sr Christine Emanuel thanked everyone and closed EDC with prayers.

Br Edwin Quildan

'What I Believe'

Moravian Messenger Editor, Sr Sarah Groves interviews Br Fred Linyard

Br Fred Linyard is a retired Moravian minister who lives in Ockbrook. Br Linyard has served in Jamaica and the British Province and on the Provincial Board for 18 years.

Tell me a bit about your upbringing

I was born and brought up in Oldham, one of the Lancashire cotton towns, during a period of economic depression and poverty. I went to the local school and then in 1940, I moved to Oldham High School.

Both my parents were deeply involved with the Westwood Moravian Church so from my earliest years the Church and Christianity were an accepted part of my life. Westwood was also a great place for making friends and the foundations of faith and friendship laid there for me and many friends supported us through many later years.

What led you into the ministry?

In the mid-1940s, as the war ended, there was much talk about the need for more ministers in the Moravian Church. I was in the final year at school, wondering what I should do next. I thought, once or twice, but not very seriously, about ministry. It was when Bishop Sam Connor came to preach at Westwood as part of his own personal recruitment campaign that the idea became more pressing. Strangely, it seemed to me, at the same time some of my youth group friends told me I should think about it. Eventually I spoke to our minister, the wheels began to turn and I started on a road that still hasn't quite ended.

Have you ever been angry with God?

Not angry, but puzzled, as I think of all the pain and suffering in the world, suffering which Jesus shared. So I go on asking questions, trying to find answers, thankful that in spite of everything, through his life and teaching we have enough light to walk by.

What has been your greatest joy in ministry?

The regular work of a minister, leading worship, offering pastoral care and generally caring for the church have always seemed to me to be the most important part of my work and very satisfying. Even when I was a member of the Provincial Board, one of my personal guidelines was that Board members are not simply administrators but 'elders' who should be concerned with the whole life of the Church.

As a member of a truly international church I have had the privilege of visiting many different Provinces and seeing Christianity at work in many parts of the world. Every Province has its own features but is tied to others by common roots and customs. I served for 11 years in Jamaica and made regular visits to Rajpur and Ladakh over 18 years which have left very special memories - sometimes of problems, of course, but mostly of events and people who enriched our lives so much. And it's wonderful, after more than a century of hard effort in Ladakh



and Rajpur to see the Church spreading into new areas of South Asia.

Are you afraid to die ...

I don't ever remember being afraid to die. Lots of unanswered questions but enough light to walk by. I believe in the resurrection of Jesus: the disciples had a number of experiences after the crucifixion that assured them that he was still with them. Secondly, with Paul I am convinced that nothing in life, not even death, can separate us from God's love. (Romans 8) What this says to us about personal immortality I'm still trying to understand but to me that isn't very important. What is central to me is working with Christ now to make the kingdoms of this world reflect more fully the Kingdom of God.

What can we learn from other churches?

My very first congregation as minister, Bedford St. Peter's, had just started to share its premises with a Presbyterian Church. A few years later, at the United Theological College of the West Indies, I worked with students from 11 different denominations. Later still I was a Moravian rep on the British Council of Churches and the Committee that prepared the Anglican/Moravian Covenant. These were exciting experiences and confirmed for me the wisdom of our motto: 'In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity!' recognising that essentials are very few.

Why do you think that organised religion is rejected?

There is great ignorance about Christianity, perpetuated by the media and we don't seem able to break through with a truer picture; we don't speak the language of young people or sing their songs; people don't want others to tell them how to live; there does not seem to be much interest in belonging to groups or organisations; 'Doing it my way' is at the heart of life for so many; perhaps most important, have we failed to struggle for and demonstrate justice and love in our common life?

Tell me about your favourite films, music and books

Favourite films (all old ones): anything with Ingrid Bergman but especially Casablanca; 2001; Third Man.

Books: so many so just one non-fiction: The Enduring Melody - Michael Mayne, former Head of religious broadcasting and Dean of Westminster reflects on his final days and his faith.

Music: Mozart - anything!

TV: (old ones again) The Good Life; Dad's Army; Last of the Summer Wine, and, currently, Brian Cox on exploring Space. (He came from Oldham too)

What would you like as your epitaph?

Plan is that I shall be buried in the Ockbrook Moravian Burial Ground with Olive so I am happy with the traditional simple stone with name and dates.



© Sr Mary Holmes

As you walk through Fulneck Moravian Settlement, you are walking in the footsteps of a radical early feminist. Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy, born in 1833, attended Fulneck School (1848-1850) at a time when half the population had no legal rights, girls belonged to their fathers and were then given to their husbands. British women were powerless, domestic violence was legally acceptable, and most workers had no vote. Building on her education, she would help to change all this.

Elizabeth was born in Manchester, a city politically divided between the wealthy industrialists and the poor working class. Her personal life was touched by tragedy: her mother died a few days after her birth and her father died when she was still young. As a child she will have seen women struggling with dire poverty, unable to feed their children and too often losing young husbands to tragic mill accidents.

Riots rock the country

By the 1840s workers were suffering twenty-five percent cuts in wages along with rising bread prices. Later in life, Elizabeth recalled being taken by her aunt to a Manchester bread riot attended by thousands of people, a tale that she could have shared with people at Fulneck when she arrived at school.

The national Plug Riots had also hit Pudsey at that time. Rioters pulled the plug on the Bankhouse Mill, thus cutting off its power. The local magistrate read them the Riot Act, but the brave rioters succeeded in turning back the militia. Rev James Lang, the Fulneck Moravian Minister, recorded how the Fulneck bakeries opened their doors to feed the starving rioters from Pudsey.

Time for learning

From a young age, Elizabeth wanted a good education so that she could live an independent life, thus challenging the social norms and many restrictions faced by women at the time. Two years at Fulneck School offered her the breadth of study normally unavailable to girls, but in line with the Moravian principle of equality.

To continue an education at university would have demanded that she was a man and a member of the Church of England: she was neither. In the following years, she would help to break down these barriers.

Fight for freedom

Elizabeth was a young woman when she began a mission to fight for women's rights. Initially, she became a highly respected headmistress and offered girls an education that mirrored the approach of Jan Comenius which she had experienced at Fulneck; this was so different to the more typical teaching style by rote. Her contribution to education was immense. While working as a headmistress she campaigned successfully for girls to be allowed to take national exams; she was the first woman to present evidence to a Royal Commission, thus influencing the drafting of the 1870 Education Act that introduced school attendance for all.

At the same time, she took on national roles to improve teacher training and raise employment opportunities for women. Throughout her life she significantly influenced economic, social

Fulneck fosters early feminist

and legal rights, becoming the first woman to have a paid role to question how proposed laws would impact on women.

Moravian influence

For many years Elizabeth worked alongside Josephine Butler. They fought together for over 15 years to challenge the laws that allowed police to undertake harsh physical examinations of women accused of being prostitutes. Josephine's mother was a Moravian of Huguenot descent and had been taught the piano by Christian La Trobe. Another Moravian connection. Another story.

Votes for women

Elizabeth passionately believed in the vote for women. She was a suffragist from the start and was seen as a guru by the young suffragettes as she demonstrated alongside them well into her seventies.

For much of her adult life she lived in Congleton. It was at her home on Buxton Road that a fall subsequently led to her death. She died six days after the passing of the 1918 Act granting some women the vote, possibly she smiled and muttered 'at last' when told this news.

My book 'Elizabeth: the feisty feminist' is now available. Please invite me along to your church to talk about this amazing woman. Money raised from sales and talks will go to charities associated with supporting girls and women, including the MWA (Moravian Womens Association).

You are welcome to email me at mary@woodhall28.co.uk and follow me on Facebook @mary.holmes28 and Twitter @MaryHolmes4.

Thanks to Congleton Museum, and to Bruce Newton and the Fulneck Moravian Museum for the photographs. The Fulneck Moravian Museum is open over the summer and well worth a visit.

Sr Mary Holmes
Fulneck



© Sr Mary Holmes

Letter

Hi,

If like me and also many others including our Queen, you can no longer attend church because of health issues, then could I ask you to tune into 'Christian Premiere Radio' on 724 (Sky). It has amazing teachings and prayers, also great music which includes hymns for all including 'Pam Rhodes' hourly sessions 1-2pm. She is also on Sunday; you may remember Pam introduces 'Songs of Praise'. This Christian radio has undoubtedly shared Christian values during its 27 years on air. This is just to let those know who are housebound and unable to get to church.

Yours in Christ, Br Jamie Spencer



© Br Andreas Tasche

A New Hope: 300th Anniversary Service

Memorial stone at Herrnhut. N.B. on the Memorial stone it states Psalm 84:4, but it is verse 3 in the English bible.

'Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself.' (Psalm 84)

On Friday 17th June 2022 we celebrated the 300th anniversary of the renewed Moravian Church in a service via Zoom - something the early Moravians could not have foreseen and neither could any of us three years ago.

Br Claire Maxwell, Br Michael Newman and Br Joachim Kreusel organised the service. As the British Province of the Moravian Church is closely connected to the South Asian Mission Area, we encouraged participation from this part of the world, but of course also from Herrnhut where the main celebrations took and take place.

Inspiring songs by young people from India and Nepal, the Brass Choir from Herrnhut and the Steelband from Hornsey Moravian Church were all part of the service in which about 80 people from across the world took part.

Br David Newman gave the following address:

We rightly look back - to learn, to gain inspiration and encouragement for the present day. But an occasion such as an anniversary is also a day when we should be looking forward.

Anniversary celebrations often focus solely on the past, which can lead to misplaced self-glorification. History should be a learning tool, equally as much about the present and future as it is about the past.

The history of Central Europe in the Early Modern period (1453-1789) has never featured strongly in the school curriculum in the UK. Hardly surprising given the lack of British involvement in that part of the world at that time. It was a period of great upheaval with many differing migrant groups fleeing persecution, much of it religious.

Protestant Christians in Bohemia and Moravia, which included those of the ancient Unitas Fratrum, suffered much persecution in the period of the Counter Reformation.

In 1517, when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of All Saints Church in Wittenburg, thus marking the beginning of the Great Reformation in Europe, the Czech Church of the Unitas Fratrum numbered over a quarter of a million people in more than 400 parishes or local church communities. The teachings of Hus were being kept alive; simple piety and a tolerant and charitable outlook towards other Christians were the hallmarks of these communities. And the state authorities tolerated their existence.

However, following Luther's actions, the first half of the 16th century saw an edict from Rome demanding that the Brethren either become Roman Catholics or leave the country, which resulted in many thousands fleeing their homeland and crossing the border into Poland. By 1557, the church's centenary year, the Unitas Fratrum has three Provinces: Bohemia, Moravia and Poland.

By the end of the 16th and beginning of the 17th century, the Counter Reformation had gathered pace, leading to the Thirty Years War, a most brutal and bloody conflict.

Tens of thousands more Protestants now fled the Czech lands of Bohemia and Moravia, for Poland and the surrounding countries. So great was this exodus that within just a few years the population of Bohemia and Moravia was decimated: it decreased from three million to less than eight hundred thousand in just three decades.

The Protestants of Bohemia and Moravia were severely defeated at the Battle of White Mountain in 1621 and the Unitas Fratrum was virtually wiped out.

There followed decades of wandering, with large groups of Czech protestant refugees looking for somewhere to establish a permanent home. This reflected the situation across Central Europe at that time, and most of the great European cities, including those in the Baltic states, were affected in some way. Generally speaking, these migrants were not treated well.

A large contingent arrived in Neukölln in Berlin, including families of the old Unitas Fratrum. Many other Bohemian protestant Christians also arrived there, and together they established a Bohemian community, known as Rixsdorf. Today, there is still a Bohemian cemetery in Neukölln/Rixsdorf, and there are visible signs of the old Utraquist dwellings. It is here that you find the present-day church buildings of the Berlin congregation of the Brüdergemeine (the German Moravian Church).

As in Berlin, so also in southern Saxony on lands not far from the city of Dresden, where a similar group of such migrants found refuge: here, against the general trend in Central Europe, they found welcome, they found acceptance, they found encouragement, and most importantly, they felt included in a community life which resulting in the building of Herrnhut - the beginnings of which we remember today, 300 years on.

This small settlement established itself as a village, subsequently grew into a town, and now has city status. This anniversary marks 300 years of a church community, and 300 years of a civic community.



Steelband at Hornsey Moravian Church, London



Brass Choir, Herrnhut, Germany



Young people in Leh / Ladakh



Young people from Rajpur Moravian Church, India



Moravian Church in Nepal

© Br Joachim Kreusel

Compare this to Europe today.

300 years later, Europe is still experiencing a tide of refugees and migrants, mainly coming from troubled regions in the middle-east and Asia, as well as from Africa. They are seeking refuge for many and complex reasons, and today, just as then, they are not well received or well treated.

They seek a welcome, they are hoping to find acceptance and encouragement, and to be included in community life; but such is not always forthcoming.

And now, following Putin's brutal, vindictive and senseless invasion of Ukraine, many hundreds of thousands, if not millions of new refugees are on the move.

So today, ask the question: how do we respond as individuals, as Christians, as a church, as a nation to those seeking a new

home within our borders? Well worth reflecting upon and then acting upon, as we remember the first settlers of what became known as Herrnhut.

'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Br David Newman





Images of Provincial Synod 2022



Br Jared with Sr Elaine and her mother, Sr Valerie



Synodals enjoying the sun



Sr Sue Selby typing the minutes



Br Paul Holdsworth and Sr Joy Raynor working through tea break



Czech Province and ECP representatives Br Petr Krásný and Sr Karen Wilson



Chair to Chair (Br Philip Cooper, Synod and Sr Roberta Hoey, Provincial Board)

Heritage Day at Fulneck on 17th September 2022

IMAGINATION, INNOVATION AND INVENTION

Once again Fulneck will be welcoming people to the settlement during England's largest festival of history and culture. The Heritage Day this year at Fulneck will be a celebration of the many talents of Moravian personalities. We'll be open between 10.30am and 4pm.

Within the church there will be an exhibition that will include how, three hundred years ago, the imagination of Count Zinzendorf was able to conceive the settlement of Herrnhut and create a centre of Christian service. You'll be able to learn about the innovative work of Terry Miller that helped to change the way we travel on the railways. You can also discover the ways in which Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy, the feisty feminist, worked for women's rights.

The museum will be open on the day, and tours along the settlement will take place. Chip butties and homemade cakes will be on sale throughout the day.

The event will conclude with a short Singstunde in Church. We'd love you to come and join us and help us celebrate our amazing history.

Sr Myra Dickinson



Celebrating Heritage Open Day at Fetter Lane

To celebrate our 275th anniversary, Fetter Lane will participate in Open House London on Saturday and Sunday, 16th and 17th September with Moravian Close open from 1pm to 5pm on each day. Open House started in 1992 to promote public appreciation of building design and architecture in the capital.

As well as giving an historical overview of the Moravians in London, past and present, visitors will learn about the site's evolution and special features including the renovation of the Tudor wall surrounding God's Acre and the restoration of the Gillick Pageant, a set of heraldic shields showing the ownership of the estate from Sir Thomas More in 1524 to Sir Hans Sloane in 1737. Sculptors Mary and Ernest Gillick lived and worked in the Close from 1914 to the 1964. Refreshments will be served.

Fetter Lane Moravian Church is located at 381 King's Road, London SW10 0LP. Please note that there is no parking inside the Close but pay and display can be found in the immediate area.

CONGREGATION NEWS

Kilwarlin, Northern Ireland

We continue to use Zoom for committee, bible study and prayer meetings. Br Livingstone produces the daily readings every day on WhatsApp. We thank him and Sr Jean Marie for this.

We were able to hold our Easter morning service in the burial ground this year followed by an Ulster Fry in the church hall, we were joined by some members from University Road.

For the Queens Jubilee we decorated the hall and grounds with flags and bunting. A Jubilee lunch was held for members of the congregation and the following Saturday we held a Jubilee afternoon tea which was open to the public and was our fund-raising event of the year.

Sr Esther Law



© Br Livingstone Thompson

Cliftonville, Northern Ireland

We are constantly saddened by events in the Ukraine so thank Sr Demi Walker who organised a sponsored walk on the Cave Hill and with additional donations we sent £565 to Church House for the Ukraine appeal.

An old storeroom at the back of the Church Hall was dismantled with valued assistance of members of the local Men's Shed. The remainder of the chairs in the hall have been replaced by blue stacking chairs that will be easier to handle.

Br Stephens took part in the retreat at Ockbrook on 21st to 23rd May and with his wife Elaine assisted in the Irish District Taster Summer Camp. Cliftonville observed the Prayer Watch on 28th June. We welcomed the Rev Robert McKee of the N.S. Presbyterian and the Rev Ken Doherty of the Presbyterian Church to take the services during Br Stephens' vacation.

During the COVID pandemic funerals were restricted in attendance and it was generally felt that people did not have an opportunity to mourn their loved ones as they might otherwise have done. Ciaran Ward, in Co. Fermanagh, who lost both parents to COVID and Mrs Brenda Doherty, whose mother Mrs Burke was one of the first to die in the pandemic, were inspired by Rami's Heart in USA to organise 'Memory Stones of Love'. Anyone who registers a name can have it painted on a stone and if wished also a hobby or interest.



© Br John Cooper

These stones have already featured at a gathering at Stormont where a request was made that a permanent memorial might be erected to those who died of any cause of illness during the pandemic.

Two much-loved members died of COVID, Sr June McGrath on 17th December 2020 and Sr Joyce Goldthorpe on 19th January 2021. Jim McGrath, June's widower, whose daughters Susan and Jennifer are involved in Memory Stones, invited Brenda to bring them to Cliftonville on Sunday evening of 26th of June, where they were arranged on the chancel steps, and she spoke to those who attended. Jennifer also spoke movingly of her mother and Br Stephens led prayers in a further act of Remembrance.

Sr Edna Cooper



© Sr Hannah Cooper

Royton, Oldham

Royton has, dare I say it, returned to normal. After church coffee was served again for the first time on Sunday 29th May. This has not been able to happen since pre-COVID. We thank the incredible cleaning team for getting the kitchen back to working order. The delight in sharing together in coffee and biscuits and being able to talk to one another properly was hugely missed during COVID times. Maskless singing has returned and at Royton we sing extremely well (I am biased). I am grateful we kept one another safe during COVID times and am so glad we can now rejoice in this and return to normal. Social events are returning and our first being a Jubilee Celebrations event. The event went exceptionally well. People brought a dish for two people and a friend. We shared in the delights of good company, good food and Sister Ann Corr's quiz (which is always a challenge, but events would not be the same without it).

Royton have been without a minister since 29th August, when Brother Martin Smith retired. Although this has been a challenge, we have managed to fill the pulpit up until the end of August, an entire year! This is all thanks to Sister Marilyn Powell and we are very grateful. We are also truly grateful for anyone that has delivered a service at Royton, without your support, we would be struggling. Further

provincial news means there will be no full-time minister in the Lancashire district from August of this year. The congregation are concerned about this but there has been a district meeting to discuss the situation and we will continue to pray. Pray and know that God has plans for us, 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.' Jeremiah 29: 11-13.

On Sunday 6th March Sr Benedek led a service for the World Day of Prayer, which this year was put together by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. A collection raised £118 for the work of the World Day of Prayer organisation. This day was also Unity Prayer Day, and a collection via envelopes raised £85 to support the Unity's work in North America to help with the resettlement of refugees from around the world, including from Afghanistan. The sisters of the MWA held a special provincial service on Saturday 30th April at 2pm. The service was live streamed over the internet, and despite some technical difficulties the sisters of the Royton circle came together in Church to celebrate and managed to log in to the service. On Sunday 5th June it is Whit Sunday or Pentecost which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples. It is also the day in which we declare and bear witness to our following of God. Normally we walk around Royton with the other churches however, this is not happening in our area this year so it has been agreed that we will walk into the precinct and sing a few hymns, holding our Royton Moravian Church banner. We are asked by God to show his works in what we do and therefore that is what we shall do. He said: 'Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give; Go in my name and because you believe, others will know that I live.' Stay safe and God bless you all.

Sr Hannah Cooper

Swindon

When we received the news that Mary's meals back packs for school were coming to an end, we sprang into action to put together as many as we could before the cut-off date.

Our band of helpers shopped, sourced and put together an amazing 175 back packs which have since been transported to Malawi.

The charity has, reluctantly, decided to stop sending the packs, and go back to how they started, feeding children in the world's poorest countries with a nutritious meal each school day. Whilst the back packs enabled more children to attend school, the charity sadly feels the project is no longer viable. We are continuing to fundraise to support their continued provision of meals.

We are also now starting to put together shoeboxes in our weekly 'wrap and chat'. We meet weekly throughout the year, to collect and prepare the items that will



© Sr Sandy Mundy

eventually go in boxes and be sent out before Christmas via The Foundation for Social Change charity.

We have been out and out again with our fundraising tombolas at various fetes and fairs, and this weekend we are holding a tabletop sale at church and the following day, attending a local car boot sale, both for the FSCI shoebox appeal.

Our rainbows have been busy during this summer term, celebrating the Queens Jubilee with crafts and an indoor street party.

We have also visited the local camp site for an evening of activities and games with other rainbows in our district.

Last week, we met at the Wilts and Berks canal and hiked to a nearby pub, where the landlady kindly supplied chips and juice for us all. Unfortunately, the weather (having been lovely all week) wasn't kind to us, but a good time was had by all. The girls sang 'rain rain go away' throughout the hike and eventually it did!

Sr Sandy Mundy

Salem, Oldham

We managed to hold all Easter services and welcomed Royton to our joint service on Maundy Thursday. But since the death of Br Harry Bintley at the end of March we have been struggling. Also, the congregation has shrunk with many members unable to attend due to ill-health.

We reluctantly agreed at an Extraordinary Congregation Council meeting in June to close the church building and merge with Royton, if they were agreeable. This is very sad as we are only two years short of two hundred years.

We will be holding a Closing Service on 21st August at 2.00pm, with refreshments afterwards, to which we invite you all to attend.

If there are any items that your church is short of please let us know, as we have accumulated a large amount of crockery, chairs, tablecloths and various other items.

In the hope of seeing many of you in August.

Sr Anne Broadbent

Notices

Hymn Writing Competition

In order to mark the 275th Anniversary of the first Christingle Service on 14th December 1747, The Faith and Order & Ecumenical Relations Committee would like to announce the launching of a Hymn Writing Competition for young people up to the age of 25.

The hymn can be either new words to an old tune or even new words for a new tune, as long as the new sheet music is submitted as well. The deadline will be 1st October so that the new hymn can be printed in the November Messenger and then distributed throughout the province and sung during Advent this year.

Please send all entries to Sr. Patsy Holdsworth at: patsy.holdsworth@moravian.org.uk. Good luck!

Book Launch at Gracehill

A new book about John Cennick by Rev Dr Robert Cotter will be launched at Gracehill Cennick Hall on Wednesday 17th August at 7pm. The book is the culmination of Dr Cotter's PhD research on Cennick and sheds new light on his relationship with Count Zinzendorf. Also speaking at this event is Professor Crawford Gribben from Queen's University and the book launch will be chaired by Rev Dr David Ceri Jones from Aberystwyth University.

The book launch is open to all and will end at 8.30pm with light refreshments.

For more information, please contact Sarah via email on sarah.groves@moravian.org.uk

- 11 Raksha Bandhan - Hindu
- 13 Manifestation of the of the Spirit at Herrnhut in 1727
- 21 The beginning of the Moravian Missions in 1732
- 23 UNESCO International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/srd/ or <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/18>)

Dates to remember!

Congregational Register

Baptism

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 19th Dec 2021 | Jesse Williams | Hornsey |
| 30th Jan 2022 | Zayah Brown | Hornsey |
| 20th Feb 2022 | Ariyah Foreman | Hornsey |
| 12th June 2022 | Tian Edwards | Hornsey |
| 19th June 2022 | Bohdan Mohammad Hussain | Fairfield |
| 26th June 2022 | Elsie Jasmine Taylor | Fairfield |

Deaths

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------|
| 29th Oct 2021 | Carlton Mayers | Hornsey |
| 11th Jan 2022 | Olney Gumbs | Hall Green |
| 15th Feb 2022 | Sylvia (Dolly) Herbert | Hall Green |
| 28th Feb 2022 | Gwen Wells | Hall Green |
| 3rd March 2022 | Renson Benjamin | Hornsey |
| 22nd March 2022 | Peter Astardjian | Hall Green |
| 20th May 2022 | Beatrice Anthony | Hornsey |
| 4th June 2022 | Betty Harwood | Hall Green |
| 10th June 2022 | Herbert Powell | Leominster |

From Church House

Br David Howarth and Br Livingstone Thompson were re-elected to the Provincial Board, with Br Edwin Quildan elected to the part-time position vacated by Br Peter Gubi. The Provincial Board will reconvene and reconstitute on 24th August 2022 and will update the Province on roles and areas of responsibility in due course.

Provincial Diary for August

24-25 Provincial Board Meeting (Church House)

Westwood/Royton, Oldham, Greater Manchester



The congregation at Westwood was set up in 1864. On 5 August 1865 the foundation stone of the first dual purpose Church and Sunday School building was laid and on 12th November the first service was held. The original building stood on Main Road, but in 1869, a new Church building was opened on Middleton Road. The Sunday School building on Main Road was rebuilt in 1906.

One reason which probably led to the Moravian Church's decision to open a church in that area was that several families from the Salem and Dukinfield congregations had moved to Westwood, as the area was becoming heavily industrialised. Platt Brothers had moved their factory, the largest producer of textile machinery in the world, to Westwood and many cotton mills also operated in the area.

In his book 'The Moravian Church, Westwood, 1865-1965' Br Ivor Packer, Minister at Westwood 1958-1966, recalls many revealing and often amusing anecdotes.

In 1873 a new organ was bought but at the end of the year several troublemakers in the school band were dismissed. At the Whit Friday walk, the band wished to lead but they were unable to play one tune with certainty so the Minister refused to allow them to expose themselves to ridicule, called in the instruments and sold them. That was the end of the band and the Minister determined never to have another!

On 4 July 1875 four Sunday School teachers were summonsed for being drunk and disorderly but were discharged with a caution at Royton Court House. In 1899, sisters were elected to serve on the Church Committee for the first time. (At the present time all our Church Committee members are sisters!) At one point, the grinding of trams disturbed the worship and drivers were instructed to go slowly past the church and stop ringing the bell!

There are so many more anecdotes, too numerous to record, but to quote Br Packer, 'From a humble beginning, the Westwood Congregation has grown into a sturdy plant, watered by faith, service, and sacrifice.'

In 1924, the Church was refurbished, with a new pulpit, communion table and chairs, and a memorial screen to the men of Westwood who had served and fallen in the Great War. The congregation at Westwood was greatly affected by the war.

Over the years, many activities took place at Westwood. The Sunday School thrived, with classes for all ages, from beginners to adults. The Men's Institute had billiards and snooker teams, there were cricket and football teams, a choir and an amateur dramatic society which put on regular plays, revues and pantomimes. Socials were held on Saturday nights, including a whist drive and dancing, and the Christmas Eve social was always followed by carol singing round the piano.

However, in later years, numbers dwindled and the financial situation meant that change was necessary. In 1989, the decision was taken to sell the Sunday School building and convert the Church building into a multi-purpose space. The work was carried out by a team of volunteers from among the congregation, relatives and friends. The conversion was very successful, with a worship area, a hall for social events, a new kitchen, meeting room and even a snooker room. A service to celebrate the new facilities and also the 250th Anniversary of the Moravian Church in England was held in 1992, and the congregation continued in this building until 2004. Eventually, continuing problems with the upkeep of the property and major structural failings became insurmountable due to the cost and the diminishing congregation and it was therefore agreed to consider the possibility of relocating. The remaining buildings - the Church and the Manse - were put up for sale.

The final service at Westwood was on Sunday 3 July 2005, and the congregation relocated temporarily to St Luke's Anglican Church in Chadderton. With the sale of the buildings, we were able to purchase the old Salvation Army Church building in Royton, and after renovations were carried out, we held our first service in our new premises on Palm Sunday, 1 April 2007. On 14th July that year, a service of rededication was held, with Br John McOwat leading the prayers and Br Fred Linyard, a Westwood boy, giving the address.

The congregation continues to thrive in Royton, and we have attracted some new members from the local area. Due to the COVID pandemic, our social and fundraising activities have had to be curtailed, but we are happy to report that the MWA circle is now able to meet again in Church.

Br Philip Cooper, who was Minister when we moved to Royton, was called to serve at Fairfield in 2014 and after a period of interregnum Sr Jane Carter became Minister. In 2017 she moved to the Yorkshire District and Br Martin Smith was welcomed and served the congregation until his retirement in August 2021.

The church is again enduring a period of interregnum, but we are carrying on as best we can, upholding our Moravian traditions and serving God and our local community. We hope to continue this work under a new Minister in the not-too-distant future.

We are indebted to Duncan Wood, who grew up at Westwood, for the information on the early years of the Westwood congregation contained in his book 'Westwood Moravian Church 1864 - 1924', published in 2021. Duncan is donating his royalties from the sale of the book to our church, for which we are very thankful.

Sr Gail Holden and Sr Marilyn Powell

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