

### Come Journey with Me

It was very difficult choosing this year's theme as there were several good suggestions. The theme "Come Journey with Me" was eventually decided upon as it is hoped that it will encompass some of the other ideas that were put forward.

Once more the title immediately brings to my mind a hymn, the first line of which is – "The journey of life may be easy may be hard". We all know this to be true as life constantly throws up challenges some of which are harder to face than others. Cardinal Basil Hume said, "Life is a pilgrimage. The way is often rough for a pilgrim and hard going, but pilgrims must keep going resolutely and courageously. They are lost if they stop looking for the right way to reach their destination".

From the minute we are born until we die we are on a journey. From toddler to teenager, through to our twenties on to middle age and beyond we are constantly growing and changing. We don't, however, travel on this journey alone. It is a journey shared with all those that we meet. Each event that we experience and the people involved with it help to mould and shape us into the people we have become today. There are special people that we encounter and who then become part of our life's pilgrimage. They may be our parents or a family member, a teacher or colleague. There are people we meet only once and there are those who become close life long friends. To us of course, as Christians, we believe our journey continues after our earthly lives have ended and that the spiritual part of our being moves into a heavenly journey to everlasting life with God. Throughout the next twelve months we will consider the life journeys of many different people; some from the Bible, some from our Moravian history and some from more modern day living. Behind each journey I hope we will be able to appreciate how God's love for each unique individual has influenced, powerfully affected and intervened to guide them through life.

We read that Jesus was only in his thirties when his earthly life ended but what a powerful effect he had on everyone that he met. Think about how much he packed into those few years – words and actions that are still remembered and still relevant today. His life journey left a legacy unsurpassed today.

#### For Discussion

1. What would you like to be remembered for?
2. Who are the people that have helped shape your life journey?
3. You may like to draw a life line for yourself and place on it special events that have shaped your own life to the present day. Then, if you wish, share each one with your group.
4. Think of the life journey of Joseph in the Old Testament. Draw a life line journey for him marking on it key events and discuss how God was present in each life changing event.