



JUNE 2026

Kingdom Over Nation

In recent months, we have seen a noticeable rise in voices that seek to align Christian faith closely with national identity. At times, Christian language and symbols have been drawn into wider cultural and political conversations in ways that can feel both powerful and deeply uneasy. Into this context, a statement from the Presidents of Churches Together in England (CTE), issued in September, speaks with clarity and care. It reminds us that the cross of Christ can never be used to justify hostility, exclusion, or a sense of superiority over others.

As Moravians, we often find ourselves returning to our own story for guidance and inspiration. This month includes the Memorial Day for the founding of Herrnhut. On 17th June 1722, when Christian David cut down the first tree, it was not simply the beginning of a settlement, but also of a community formed by those who had fled persecution: refugees who carried with them the faith and practices of the Unitas Fratrum. They came not to assert a national identity, but to seek a place where they might live faithfully under Christ.

Under the care of Count Zinzendorf, Herrnhut became more than a place of refuge. It became a community in which identity was reordered around Christ himself, so that people of different backgrounds and traditions were gathered not around a shared nationality, but around a shared Saviour. Even the name 'Herrnhut', the Lord's watch, speaks of a people attentive to Christ and held in his keeping.

That is not to suggest that life together was simple. The disputes of the mid-1720s remind us how easily difference can lead to division. Yet the renewal of 1727, often called the Moravian Pentecost, came not through uniformity but through a rediscovery of love, expressed in a simple phrase: 'we learned to love one another'. From this flowed a missionary movement that crossed cultures, languages, and nations.



There is, perhaps, an important question for us here: if our origins are found in a community of refugees, gathered across difference and renewed in love, how do we understand our identity today? And how do we respond when the language of faith is used in ways that seem to narrow, rather than widen, the embrace of the gospel?

The statement from the Presidents of CTE draws us back to Scripture: to the call of Leviticus to love the stranger, and to the words of Jesus in Matthew 25, where welcoming the stranger

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Editorial

I have been leafing through old photographs, sometimes laughing, sometimes crying and often lost in memories. I have boxes and boxes of old photos and now I need to consider what to do with them, sort them, save some and ditch many are the realistic options. I should have done it years ago but of course time was not with me then. I'm not sure that it is with me now either but that is another story!

It is strange looking at the fashions of the past, the old cars and design of spectacles; I once had a cracking pair of Dennis Taylor glasses! The quote from 'The Go-Between' by LP Hartley, 'The past is a foreign country, they do things differently there', keeps coming back to me. The context of the quote is the reflections of an older man, Leo Colstan, looking back on his childhood memories and realising that so much has changed socially and in the world in the years between 1900 and his adult life.

My childhood, like many of us, was without any form of electronic devices although the Amstrad Word Processor did come in during my early ministry. How did we manage? But it's not just about things, it's about us as well: we grow and change as do those around us and our relationships with others change over time.

And social attitudes change too, thinking back over my lifetime, the role of women, the increasing acceptance of same sex relationships and views about end-of-life issues. Sadly, racism is still with us, not largely the old naked racism of the 1950s but in a more insidious form of hatred of the other.

Events cannot be revisited; we cannot change the past. 'In my day' must be one of the saddest phrases in the English language! I would not want to and more importantly cannot go back to that past country where they did things differently.

However, we still live in the real shadow of the past and its consequences. That shadow affects us and shapes us, some of it very good and some of it with continuing harms. This is true for individuals, congregations, our denomination and wider society. For me the question is 'how do we move forward recognising the influence of the past yet facing into the future'? A chance conversation with a Christian ethicist gave me a real insight into how we might approach this, that is looking through the lens of 'what really matters'.

'What really matters' in our past, the good, and should be held onto and built upon. What is peripheral or damaging must be recognised and discarded, corrected or atoned for. 'What really matters' now is a case for analysis for all of us, in our own lives, in our relationships, and in our Churches, holding on or letting go as appropriate. 'What will really matter' as we look into the future must be worked on and it will surely involve how we treat each other and live respectfully on this earth. Perhaps those old but ever relevant words from Micah Chapter 6 verse 8, he has shown us what the Lord requires 'to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God'.

Sr Sarah Groves
Editorial Team



Kingdom Over Nation

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is bound up with welcoming Christ himself. These are not peripheral texts, but central to a biblical vision of community.

It is encouraging, therefore, that Churches Together in England are preparing a new resource, Kingdom Over Nation. It aims to encourage theological reflection on nationhood, identity, belonging, and the Kingdom of God, and to provide space for churches to discuss the tensions around nationalism that may be present within congregations. Drawing on contributors from across the Christian traditions, it is intended to be engaged with, shared widely, and responded to, so that churches might reflect together with greater clarity and care.

As we approach the Memorial Day for the founding of Herrnhut, we might see this anniversary as an invitation not simply to look back with gratitude, but to look around - and within - with honesty and hope. We can ask what it means, in our time, to be a people whose primary belonging is in the Kingdom of God, and how our life together might bear witness to a love that crosses boundaries rather than reinforces them.

Br Michael Newman

Minister of Hornsey and Fetter Lane
Moravian Congregations
and Provincial Board



Kingdom Over Nation can be obtained from:
<https://cte.org.uk/working-together/kingdom-over-nation/>

Provincial Notice

FROM CHURCH HOUSE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We wish to inform you of an important decision regarding the future of Church House, including the Provincial Archives. After careful consideration of the long-term needs, resources, and mission of the British Province, the Provincial Board is preparing to relocate Church House from Muswell Hill, London, to the Fulneck Moravian Settlement in Pudsey, West Yorkshire. This process will begin in the summer and further details will be shared at Synod. This is part of our wider efforts to ensure that the Provincial administrative structures remain sustainable, effective, and aligned with our shared priorities for the future.

We have identified one of the former school buildings, the Robinson Building, as the most suitable permanent location for Church House. In addition, two residential properties within the settlement have been identified as potential accommodation for the two full-time Provincial Board members.

While this decision brings benefits for the Province as a whole, we are keenly aware of the impact it has on Church House staff. The decision to move is not a reflection of their performance or commitment and their dedication remains deeply valued.

The Provincial Board believes that relocating Church House to Fulneck represents a forward looking and responsible step for the future of the British Province. It reflects our desire to use our resources wisely, to honour our Moravian heritage, and to sustain our life and witness for generations to come.

Provincial Board

1277: Make them count Press Release
National Month of Prayer for toddler groups
- June 2026

'Send a Sheep!'

June is the National Month of Prayer for toddler group ministries. Organised by 1277 Make Them Count - a Network of church-based Toddler Group leaders - the month of prayer encourages churches to pray for the work of their toddler groups as they reach out to serve the needs of local families.

This year's theme is 'Jesus the Good Shepherd'. Leaders are being encouraged to create a sheep representing their toddler group. These will form a flock which will gather in parliament on 1st June to launch the month of prayer.

Jo Gordon, co-founder of 1277 Make Them Count, is gathering the varied sheep. 'I'm thrilled to see sheep being sent from far and wide - Cardiff, Exeter, Manchester, Co Antrim and little villages like East Ardsley near Wakefield. The variety of sheep is vast, representing the diversity of toddler groups. Adults and children have knitted, crocheted, crafted and made us of cotton-wool balls in abundance!'

She continues, 'Last week the congregation at St Cuthberts in Wembley held some of the sheep and prayed for each one. We are passionate about children and families discovering the loving nurturing care of Jesus our shepherd wherever their group is found.'

Throughout June a wealth of resources are available on the 1277 website. From making hats to sheep trails, prayer stations involving different aspects of the scripture to daily prayer prompts highlighting the many breeds of sheep - there is something for everyone.

With over 20,000 churches estimated to be running toddler groups in the UK, it is so important for them to be supported in prayer.

The 1277 flock of sheep will join toddler group leaders and other community leaders at a reception in the Houses of Parliament on Monday June 1st to launch the month. A similar event will take place in Leinster House in Dublin on May 28th for toddler groups in Ireland.

Dip into the ideas, activities and articles on our website:
<https://1277.org.uk/national-month-of-prayer/>; or the 1277 Facebook Group:
www.facebook.com/groups/1277makethemcount/

For further information, please contact: Joanna Gordon, leader of 1277 Make Them Count, at: jo@danielsden.org.uk or 07984042777.



© 1277
Make Them
Count

What is 1277?

In the UK, a child has an average of 1277 days between birth and starting 'nursery'. 1277 wants to make each of these days count. It is movement which is passionate about resourcing and supporting church-based toddler groups and the families whom they serve. It has a website www.1277.org.uk and active Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/1277makethemcount/.

Letter to Editorial Team

Thank you ever so much for publishing my letter about the 'Limitarianism' advice book by Ingrid Robeyn, the eminent philosopher and economist. I do now have enough money to buy 10 more copies which I will be most happy to give to the first 10 UK Moravian 'thinkers' to request one.

I am a non-academia learner, learning by living in churches, the military, the trades unions, performing arts, and specialist Christian politics. In my opinion there is no better way to be educated for life. For Brs and Srs who take the trouble to know me, I am a complicated Christian with basic, traditional views, however still open to inspiration at my tender age of 87.

Please read Ingrid Robeyn's book and be inspired by the Jesus Christ Christianity. Then you may begin to realise how a limit on individual's excessive wealth can democratically be achieved. Let us start by a one at a time discussion on say, excessive wealth made out of food sales. One of several items humanity needs to live on.

Firstly when Moravian thinkers have read this in-depth work of research and thought, which at one time Ingrid thought of giving up and see the impossibility of its consequence we will all see the need for its necessity. Then remember that our Church and its members (you and me) are living in a sound democracy, yes its true a democracy and that alone will start us thinking of our first step.

Yours for Christ's sake,
Br Alan Holdsworth.

Report on the Minister's Retreat 2026



© Sr Janet Cooper

The Minister's and Lay Worker's Retreat was held from 4th to 7th May at High Leigh Conference Centre in Hoddesdon. I assume High Leigh Conference Centre was once a stately home, modern accommodation blocks have been built attached to the hall and it is able to host a number of conferences, meetings or retreats simultaneously.

We opened the retreat with an inspiring service conducted by Sr Sarah Groves. After this, each day of the conference followed a similar pattern. Morning and evening prayers were led by a different minister on each occasion. Consequently, we were led in a wide variety of worship which I found both interesting and inspiring. The different worship styles demonstrated to me, the varied skills and talents of the ministers of the British Province. One big change in my life since becoming a minister with a congregation, is the reduced opportunity to participate in worship which is being led by someone else. I do miss this, so I particularly appreciated the opportunity to be in the congregation rather than up at the front.

Each day, we were led in Bible Study by Sr Amy Gohdes-Luhman, a bishop of the Moravian Unity based in Minneapolis USA. Her chosen theme for the retreat was 'Steadfast Love: Mercy in Ministry.' Amy has a lot of experience as a congregation minister, serving in two congregations before being elected as a bishop and taking up a new role as Director of Mission Engagement on the Board of World Mission. Amy is also an Old Testament scholar and she drew both on her academic background and her pastoral skills to shape the Bible Study sessions. Amy chose a number of Hebrew and Greek words found in the scriptures for us to focus on. She called them 'Words to live by' and 'Words to story ourselves.'

During the taught sessions, we explored how each word had been used in Old and New Testament stories. Amy also, was very courageous in sharing some of her own life stories to illustrate the word we were looking at in the session. There was then an opportunity for us to reflect independently and individually in silence, on the meaning of the word for us, on our own personal stories and how the two might connect together. We then gathered in groups of two or three to share

those stories and others, if we wished.

Personally, I love a good story! As someone who has spent the majority of my professional life listening to people's stories, I am always interested in how people tell their stories and how people interpret a story's meaningfulness for themselves. Many of the stories told were very powerful. The storytelling prompted me to reflect that people can read or hear the same story but can hear or see very different meanings in the narrative.

Retreats are an opportunity to come away from daily life to reflect upon how God might be working in our personal lives and in the world around us. The outcome of this reflection depends upon the individual and their particular context. For me, Amy's Bible Studies challenged me to contemplate how I might connect the Word of God with the community I serve both within the congregation at Fulneck and in the wider community of Pudsey in what are challenging times.

Personal reflection also took place in the grounds around High Leigh Conference Centre which are beautiful with lots of places to sit quietly thinking and praying. We were very fortunate to have sunny weather, so I took the opportunity to sit in the sunshine in the morning before breakfast, beginning with personal prayer and then with a coffee on the terrace with colleagues.

There were also plenty of opportunities to socialise and chat. Ministry can be a lonely occupation especially if you live alone or/and live some distance away from other ministers that you feel you can talk to. The retreat was an opportunity to talk with other people who understand about the joys, sorrows and difficulties of being a congregation minister. The retreat concluded with a thoughtful Communion service led by Br Joachim Kreusel before we all departed for home.

Although I have been in congregation ministry for a short time, I appreciated the opportunity to be away from home and work to recharge my spiritual batteries and to spend time reflecting upon my calling to ministry.

Sr Janet Cooper

Minister of Fulneck Moravian Congregation

Press Release: Moravian University announces global Moravian leader Ms Roberta Hoey to deliver 2026 Commencement Address

BETHLEHEM, PA, April 30, 2026: Today, Moravian University announced that Ms Roberta Hoey, President of the Unity Board of the Worldwide Moravian Unity, will serve as the featured speaker for the University's 2026 Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9 in Bethlehem. During the exercises, the University will confer upon Hoey the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in recognition of her trailblazing leadership and tireless advocacy for social justice.

At 32, Ms Hoey was elected President of the Unity Board, the highest leadership position within the Worldwide Moravian Unity. She holds the distinction of being the youngest person ever to hold the office, as well as only the second layperson and second woman to lead the global church.

Born and raised in Northern Ireland during a period of intense conflict, Hoey's formative years instilled in her a profound commitment to cross-community engagement and peacebuilding. After earning an undergraduate law degree (LLB) from Queen's University, Belfast, and studying American Business Practice at the Catholic University of America, she completed a master's degree in human Rights and Criminal Justice. Her professional journey spanned international banking and markets in London and Greece before she transitioned into pivotal leadership roles within the British Province of the Moravian Church.

'We are deeply honored to welcome Roberta Hoey to campus to address the Class of 2026,' said Bryon Grigsby, president of Moravian University. 'Our graduates have much to learn from her ability to transform conflict into collaboration and her dedication to creating inclusive spaces where everyone has a seat at the table. Her life is a testament to the idea that intellect and wisdom, when matched with humility and a sense of humor, can truly change the world.'



© Sr Roberta Hoey

Hoey's leadership extends across the globe, including her service as Chair of the British Mission Board with a focus on South Asia and Western Tanzania, and her advocacy for the eradication of violence against women. Her work continues to provide a courageous witness in traditionally male-dominated environments, offering a modern manifestation of the Moravian value, 'In all things, love.'

Office of Marketing & Communications,
Moravian University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

PROVINCIAL MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship Rally 2026

Saturday 27 June 2026

Theme: Men of the Church



We invite you to join us at
Ockbrook Moravian Church,
Derbyshire

Time of meeting
12:30pm for
refreshments

NOTICE

Moravian Church Archives and Library is on the move – Notice of Temporary Closure

Due to the relocation of Moravian Church House, the British Provincial Moravian Church Archives and Library will be temporarily closed to researchers from the 26th June 2026 until early next year, to facilitate building renovations and the removal of the archival collections from Muswell Hill, London to their new home in Fulneck, West Yorkshire.

In the meantime, we will be only able to respond to general enquiries by email and apologise for any inconvenience this temporary closure may cause. We will share news about the service's re-opening date later this year.

'What I Believe'

Moravian Messenger Editor Sr Sarah Groves interviews Br James Woolford



Br James is the minister of Dukinfield and Royton Moravian Churches in the Lancashire District and chair of the Provincial Youth and Children's Committee.

Tell us a bit about your background, family, education etc

I'm the youngest of two boys and my older brother Paul is a PE Teacher. My mum and dad are now both retired, but my mum Kathryn is a minister in the church, and my dad Roy had a number of jobs including bus driver and working on the trains.

I have a love of performing and hold a degree in Drama alongside my degree in contextual theology. I worked for three and half years in the entertainment industry doing a wide variety of jobs from Children's theatre to performing in hotels.

How and when did you come to faith?

My faith has been a constant in my life and whilst there have been times where I've had my doubts and questioned things, it's been there since birth. I was baptised as a child at Gomersal church by Rev David Dickinson.

What lead you into the ministry? How did you hear God's call and where did you train?

My first experience of anything ministry based was being asked by the Ballinderry congregation to lead a youth service around 2002. I enjoyed putting it together and thinking about what I would say. From that point ministry always felt like something I would do at some point. However, I kept putting it off, preferring instead to do other things until I felt ready.

During Br Michael Newman's ordination service, I felt God ask me, 'what are you waiting for?' and so shortly afterwards, I put my application in. I trained at Northern College in Manchester. God doesn't want you to wait when you hear the call and will keep prodding until eventually you give in and listen.

How do you integrate your interest in performing arts into your life and ministry?

It is especially useful when leading worship and working with children. I am able to think quickly and react to things that comes up. I love Improv Theatre and a lot of those skills are very useful in ministry. I also use magic to bring the message alive. I have used my background experience to write new hymns, monologues and other creative things.

What has been your greatest joy so far in ministry, and what do you struggle with?

My highest joy has probably been leading at our Summer Camp and the little moments of interaction and joy that I have shared with the young people in the church. I frequently find joy leading parade services and finding fun ways to get God's message across.

My biggest struggle has been acceptance of my differences. I'm neurodivergent and I've always been profoundly aware of being different and that is never easy. I'm not what people typically expect as a minister. On my better days, I see that as a strength, because there is something unique to me that means God wanted me to do this. On my worse days, I see all the failings and challenges my busy brain causes and I wish I could

be more normal. I'm very grateful to those who have been accepting of my differences but that has not always been the case, which has been enormously challenging.

How can we integrate young people into the life, service and leadership of our Church?

We need to move away from the idea that young people are the future of the church. They are the present. We need to listen to their voices and trust them with roles of responsibility. They will offer different ideas and will make mistakes, but we have to hand the baton over. We also need to go to places where they are and find out what they're looking for in a church. The traditional model of church simply doesn't work for many of them. They are also looking for a sense of authenticity. We have to be a church that practices what it preaches and shows care for the world, for them and the outcasts.

Are you afraid to die? Can you look beyond death and what does that look like?

The older I get the more this is on my mind. I've had a few health scares and so it does worry me. I have a strong faith but equally it is the great unknown. I believe we will find peace and be welcomed to a place of comfort and true joy.

Some personal preferences - favourite film, book, music and why?

This is a really hard one to answer. My favourite film changes all the time, but I really enjoy the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy and anything that helps me escape to another world. My favourite novel is *Ready Player One*. I have a very eclectic taste in music but some of my favourites include Michael Buble, Stevie Wonder, Phil Collins and Queen. I should also state that I love Musical Theatre and my favourite shows are *Les Misérables*, *Matilda*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *Operation Mincemeat*.

The place where you feel closest to God?

Wherever there is music and singing. I find sitting at my piano and singing to be a place that brings me great peace and helps me to feel closer to God. When I lived in London, I used to go to St Martin's in the Field on a Thursday afternoon for their Great Sacred Music service I found it a beautiful space to sit, listen and feel the presence of God.

What inscription would you like on your gravestone or epitaph, if any?

I've always loved the simplicity of our gravestones, however, if I was able to add something I'd want something to make people smile so I think I'd like 'OI! You're standing on my head!'

Report from the MWA (Moravian Women's Association) Away Day

Held at Hall Green, Birmingham on 18th April 2026: 'Jesus the Storyteller'



After ten years I have now served the maximum term as vice-president. It has been a total privilege to serve on the MWA executive committee, and it is a pleasure to give an overview of our Away Day.

The day began with radiant sisters and several brothers in attendance: happy, healthy and enthusiastic, ready for an uplifting day.

Attending Circles included:

- Midlands - Hall Green, Leominster.
- Eastern - Fetter Lane, Harold Road, Hornsey.
- Lancashire - Dukinfield, Royton.
- Western - Swindon.
- Yorkshire - Gomersal, Horton, Lower Wyke, Wellhouse.
- Online Circles - Seedlings and LIFT (Love In Fellowship and Truth).

We are extremely proud of our young people with their consistency; I believe their online meetings will grow in strength and be blessed with joyful persistence.

We thank all the circles mentioned, plus the Irish circle including Gracehill and University Road for their fundraising. This year a substantial amount towards our charities was submitted. Over the years opportunities have enabled many to experience a better quality of life. We continue to thank our Lord for our organisation with the Project Money.

Our theme this year was 'Jesus the Storyteller'. Sr Janet Cooper delivered the address highlighting to let us reach out to others by exploring and reading the Bible stories of Jesus; to trust and believe in Him.

Workshops on the day consisted of craft, Bible study, Talk, and

Fitness / Keep fit in the hall. Having lunch I met, for the first time, three wonderful sisters. The 'three Golden girls' were more than ready for the fitness exercise. Every year they joined and enjoyed the exercises, being of a certain age was not a barrier for them - our Golden Ladies are more than capable. Author Lyndsey Simpson projects that there will be well over 21.5 million people globally aged 100 or more by the end of this century.

I went to the 'Talk' workshop, which was very well attended, and was led by Sr Norma Maynard and Sr Mary Holmes (our Home and Overseas Secretary). We discussed their visit earlier this year to the Unity Women's Desk Consultation, in Tanzania, and discussion then led to other topics including empowering Moravian Women, challenging gender-based violence, and the growing problem of misogyny and sexual harassment and from Sr Mary: 'learning about how to recognise and challenge violence against women and girls in our congregations and communities.' It was a very powerful and uplifting session.

We thank Sr Patsy Holdsworth for leading our communion service. The good feeling of the day ended with the knowledge that Jesus gives us love, warmth, peace and fellowship.

I would like to thank Sr Norma for organising and co-ordinating our wonderful day and the Hall Green Sisters, and the organist, who supported us.

Serving under presidents Sr Janet Cooper and Sr Gillian Taylor and working with the executive committee has been a very fulfilling experience. They instilled respect, unity and goodness. I thank them for the years of their commendable leadership.

'May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' (Romans 15:13)

Sr Audrey Kendall

CONGREGATION NEWS

Easter news from Gomersal Congregation, Yorkshire

Our Passion week readings were enjoyed by all who attended them. We welcomed friends from Wellhouse and Fulneck to share the Maundy Thursday communion service with us. It was an uplifting service with wonderful singing of the hymns.

Gomersal and Cleckheaton Churches Together organised the Good Friday walk around Cleckheaton where some of our members took part.

The weather for the early morning service on Easter Sunday



started bright, but as we made our way to the Burial Ground for that part of the service, it started to rain and it got heavier as the service progressed. At the conclusion we quickly made our way back to Church for our Easter Breakfast, prepared and served by the Brethren of the congregation. It was a lovely meal, very much appreciated by all the ladies.

Sr Norma Machell

Easter Services 2026 at Bath (Weston), Bath and North East Somerset

What five lovely services we had recently!

ASH WEDNESDAY evening a service was held, bringing our palm crosses from last year to burn in the fire pit ready for a cross to be marked on our foreheads. A reasonable number of people came along to begin their time of Lent. Rev Lorraine held Lent courses for six weeks, either on Zoom or face to face if you preferred. This course refreshed our minds of Jesus's final journey to Jerusalem.

PALM SUNDAY the entrance to this service was a lot different than normal. All of a sudden, you heard the sound of hoofs coming through the door and low and behold a donkey appeared clip clopping along and of course it was our minister dressed up in a blow-up donkey suit. This amused the congregation, and the service started, but the donkey suit did not stay on long. The readings for most of the services were from Bear Grylls' book 'The Greatest Story ever told'. During the service one of our regular attendees was made a member of the church, which was a happy occasion, and mixed well within the service.



© Sr C Young / A Paddock

MAUNDY THURSDAY service we were joined by the congregations from the Western District, plus the Anglican Church in Weston Village (Weston All Saints). Halfway through the service people were invited to have their feet or hands washed. This was going to be a challenge: we had four chairs, four bowls, flannels in baskets to dry feet plus jugs of warm water with bubble liquid. The bowls were emptied each time, plus one to be brought in to replace, plus refilling jugs. Rev Lorraine, Rev Jane, Tom Yacomem (Rector of All Saints) and Rev

Emma King (Curate at All Saints), did the feet washing. It all went like a dream and most people took part. At the end of the service the lights were dimmed and everyone left in silence, all very moving!

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS was also held at our church this year. The walk started from the other end of the village at Weston All Saints church, and people were given a small stone to carry. Three crosses were carried and then fixed to the railings at the front of church. The weather was not on our side so could not have the service outside as normal, and inside it was. We had over 100 people at the service - it was wonderful to see all these people just coming in with their dogs, children in pushchairs: just amazing! Also, it was wonderful to hear the church full of singing voices. The stones that were carried by the people on the walk were asked to place them at the base of the cross to relieve them of any burdens that they may have. Rev Lorraine had put prayer stations all around the church (Good Friday prayer reflections) which had different items that represented the people who had been on Jesus's journey to Easter morning. You could take an item from each table or a choice of your own home. Refreshments of buttered hot cross buns were given out with tea/coffee in the hall after the service.

EASTER DAY started with an early morning service at 7.30am, but again the weather was not kind to us, so had to be inside. This was well attended even though it was a very early start for some. Well, it may have been because a cooked breakfast was provided, which was enjoyed by all as well as the service. After everything was cleared away it was then time for our 11am service, which was also well attended, nothing like Good Friday though!

Readings again were from Bear Grylls' book. It was a Happy Service with lovely hymns to end our journey from the beginning of Lent to the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From the congregation we would like to thank Rev Lorraine for all her hard work and time putting all these services together. It's not an easy job: there is usually some obstacle in the way, but everything went well. So thank you Lorraine, you always put a smile on our faces one way or another.

Sr Carole Young

Hornsey, London

It has been quite a while since the last article from Hornsey; it has been a fairly quiet few months here apart from our usual weekly activities and services. The bible study group continues to meet on Zoom every Monday evening and on a Wednesday evening the Prayer Group meets on WhatsApp. During Lent the Bible Study group was for the district and they were looking at Women of Holy Week.

We have had a couple of ecumenical services happen with the first one of the year being back in January when we had an evening service at Hornsey Parish Church to mark the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The following week there was another joint service held at Holy Innocents Church to mark the end of WPCU.

In March, some of the Hornsey MWA ladies completed a sponsored walk in the local Priory Park. The weather was not the best however it did not deter them and between the four of them they raised an impressive amount of over £500.

The Hornsey congregation are looking forward to a couple of exciting events taking place over the months to come. We will be holding our annual Garden Party on Saturday 20th June and a month later, on Saturday 25th July we have our annual outing to the beautiful Walton-on-the-Naze. If anyone would like more information about either of these events, please do get in touch with Br Michael, Sr Christine or any of the Church Committee.

At the end of April, we were saddened to hear of the passing of Sr Rose Calder who was a well-loved member of the congregation, a former Church Committee member and MWA leader. Br Tony and family are in our prayers.

Sr Clare Newman



© Sr Elisha Bowers

Dukinfield congregation (Cheshire) making a Joyful noise to the Lord!

Dukinfield Moravian Church was definitely shouting with joy after a music packed day on Sunday 29th April.

Morning service began with a visit from the popular local 'Rainbow' Group, who are based out of St Chads CofE Church in nearby Romiley. This 8-piece group delivered a wonderful Service with excellent hymns around the theme of love. The reading was from 1 Corinthians 13, featured at many a wedding, and different versions of these verses were explored and brought to life before the congregation.

As well as singing, flutes, drums, guitars, tambourines and maracas all came into play and the set list included:

- 'Father God, I wonder' - as the warmup.
- 'How deep is the Father's love for us.'
- 'The steadfast Love of the Lord.'
- 'A New Commandment I give unto you'.
- 'Here is love vast as the ocean.'
- 'Great is thy faithfulness'.
- A very emotional and fitting end with 'Amazing Grace'.

Many popular songs reflect on the theme of love - indeed the Beatles said 'All you need is Love' - but we were taken through the different ways that love works: Storge / affection and caring; Philia / Friendship and fellowship; Eros / romantic love; and then AGAPE the unconditional love from our Father. The first three can be encapsulated in the saying 'You may not be perfect, but you are perfect for me' - but the love of the Father is always with us and shown by our Lord Jesus Christ in its highest form. This does not count on our worthiness but is freely given to all.

We had a real treat for all ages; every member of the group



© Sr Penny Weir / Kerry Cain

took part in conducting the sermon so was a real testimony to proclaiming the Word with powerful performances. Not to be missed if you get the chance to see them in person and in harmony.

Later that day our local 'Songs of Praise' service also took place at Dukinfield. This annual event circulates round the town's Churches all who have input into the chosen hymns. It's a great way to share joint worship - and a look ahead to us all joining together again for the Whit walks. Everyone is welcome - Sr Gillian Taylor greeted all warmly. Representatives came from the variety of Churches in the area such as St Mary's Catholic Church, Dukinfield Methodists, Old Chapel Unitarian and St Marks C of E. Again, praising the Lord through fellowship, prayer and music was the focus with a reading from Genesis 1:14-19.

We enjoyed explanations for the reasons of today's chosen hymns that encompassed choices such as: 'O Lord my God (How great Thou Art)', 'Jesus Christ is risen today', 'Blessed Assurance', 'For the beauty of the Earth' and 'Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us.' The Grace was shared by all who attended with chance to catch up with friends old and new over refreshments. To quote from the final Hymn: 'Jesus our love for you we sing, Living Lord.'

Sr Penny Weir

Easter week at Fetter Lane, London

Daily quiet reflection, fun and games and joyous gathering were all part of Easter week at Fetter Lane. We followed the evening Passion Week readings, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as we always do, adding an afternoon of children's activities with storytelling focused on the promise of Easter.

We gathered at 8am on Easter Sunday and enjoyed good weather for the section of the Easter service that takes place in God's Acre. Following the service, we moved to Studio 1 for a light breakfast, including some amazing cakes. It felt like a time of renewal and hope as we focus on the light ahead.

Sr Cynthia Dize



© Br Michael Newman

Buggy Park at Fetter Lane

Horton, Yorkshire

Easter

We had a very busy time leading up to Easter Sunday with services, activities and fellowship so we could share the wonderful Easter story.

Sr Cathy Gledhill, from our sister church at Lower Wyke, led a craft activity at Ladies Fellowship making felt Easter eggs with each holding a small chocolate treat. Someone remarked that the group had never been as quiet as everyone concentrated on their sewing!

Next a craft morning was held, both inside and outside the

church, where stone painting, chalking and other activities took place. Lots of (new to church) children and adults took part including locals from surrounding streets. Chalking on the pavement outside church was popular as was the stone painting on an Easter theme, with the stones put into the church garden for all to see and appreciate. A wonderful morning of outreach, fellowship and new faces.

Our traditional Easter joint service with Lower Wyke was held on Thursday evening including the sharing of food and our service on Friday, where we shared the readings, was thoughtful and reflective. On Easter Sunday we celebrated together the good news - 'He is Risen - He is Risen indeed'.

Sr Linda Barraclough

Kilwarlin, Northern Ireland

It was snowing when we arrived for our Easter Morning Service, but by the time we went out to the burial ground the sun was shining, though it was very cold. Everyone was glad to come indoors for a welcoming cup of tea and a cooked breakfast.

Sr Esther Law



© Sr Esther Law

Ockbrook, Derbyshire

Winter seemed endless, here at Ockbrook! The rain fell, the fields flooded, and to steal a line from Carousal, 'A crowd of doubting Thomases was predictin' that the summer'd never come'.



© Br Joachim Kreusel

Nevertheless, the church continued a busy schedule, ranging from the very popular 'Knit and Natter' sessions, to Margaret Barker's fascinating monthly 'Forums'.

We formed a committee, to plan an exciting summer event here on the Settlement, revolving around the visit of 'Moravian Brass' from Germany in August. At our first meeting it was

impossible to even imagine dry, warm weather.

Then Easter brought the sunshine and never has the message of resurrection and new life felt more compelling. Following a lively Palm Sunday service, in-person attendances for our Easter week readings were a little disappointing, but the number of people joining us on Zoom indicated a positive trend, in spreading the gospel far beyond our little corner of Derbyshire. Closer to home, Sr Gloria David led the Good Friday service, where we welcomed visitors from the village, afterwards, with fellowship and hot cross buns.

A bright dawn to Easter Day meant that we had a beautiful Sunrise Service, although the more adventurous members of the congregation had to forego the usual tradition of climbing up to our cupola to serenade the Settlement with hymns (it is currently out of bounds, awaiting repairs).

Later in the morning, we enjoyed a Lovefeast, with news and videos of Moravian celebrations of Easter around the world, after which we shared communion and listened to a thought-provoking address from Br Joachim Kreusel.

All in all, it is shaping up to be a busy year, in Ockbrook. Watch this space!

Sr Jayne Brewster

Baildon, Yorkshire

The arrival of spring brought renewed activity to Baildon. We celebrated Mothering Sunday with an uplifting service led by our minister Sr Patsy Holdsworth who also gave all the sisters a pot of tete-a-tete daffodils in memory of her own mother plus a hand painted card of a Moravian Sister in traditional dress.

Thanks to 'Baildon in Bloom' along with members and friends for giving our God's Acre its biannual make-over on the Saturday before Palm Sunday.

On Palm Sunday itself Sr Patsy gave us all a Palm cross to which she had added a beautiful handmade Palm sunflower to remember those in war torn areas this Easter. Later that evening, Baildon hosted the Yorkshire District Palm Sunday readings and music service led by Sr Diane Thornton and the Moravian Singers. It was a really enjoyable occasion with beautiful music and poetry. Thanks to Srs Cath Snowden, Jenny Baldwin and Allyson Lewis for supplying us with refreshments and hot cross buns afterwards!

We kept the Passion Week readings, Maundy Thursday Communion and Good Friday liturgy led by Sr Patsy and Sr Sylvia Bentley.



© Sr Caroline Singleton

Our Easter Day service was very well attended in a beautiful flower filled church but troubled by Storm Dave! The congregation only managed one verse of the first set hymn in part three of the Easter Liturgy in God's Acre, before rain stopped play and everyone hurried back into the dry! Spirits weren't dampened by the weather though and back in church we celebrated Holy Communion and after the service, the children enjoyed an indoor egg hunt!

It is said that no-one is indispensable, but we are thinking that may not be the case when it comes to Beer Festivals! After over a quarter of a century, we have had to 'call time' on our Festival due to the ill health of our organiser, Bill Arnold.

Without him we just can't carry on, and we thank him so much for his hard work and enthusiasm in the past.

And finally, we have recently completed the second part of the NCD surveys and results show some positive changes in our congregation's attitude so that's good news!

Sr Ruth France

Royton (formerly Westwood and Salem), Lancashire

We hope you all had a thoughtful and meaningful Lent and Easter, culminating in the joy of Easter Sunday and celebrating our risen Saviour.

The Easter services were all well attended and meaningful. On Palm Sunday, Sr Penny Weir from Dukinfield led the service, which was very interesting and thoughtful, and included the traditional singing of the Hosanna Anthem. The Holy Week readings from Passion Week and Eastertide were held in church, and it was clear to see how much they meant to those attending. On Maundy Thursday, Br Gubi and Br Woolford led a District Service of Holy Communion at Fairfield, and Sr Benedek led our worship in church on Good Friday. We thank Sr Benedek and all the readers who took part in what can be a difficult and emotional service. Br Woolford led the joyful service on Easter Sunday, once again producing a little bit of magic involving a balloon which was enjoyed by the congregation!

Prior to Easter we held a few social events including The Treasure Hunt on 21st February which was as usual enjoyed by all those who took part. Br Woolford held a fun Quiz Night for all ages on 20th March, and we were pleased to welcome several of our friends from Dukinfield - competition was fierce! The supper was delicious, and as it was Red Nose Day, the £183 raised was donated to Comic Relief. Further social events have been planned, which we will share in our next update.

The Spring Congregation Council meeting took place after the service on 1st March. This meeting included the annual elections. Sr Marilyn Powell has retired from the post of Deputy to LDC

(Lancashire District Conference) after many years. We thank her for her service, and wish Sr Judith Wilson well, having been elected in her place. Sr Lesley Benedek, was re-elected to Church Committee.

The other retiring member was Sr Anne Broadbent, who has now left us for pastures new. She has moved to Suffolk to be near family and has sent an email thanking the congregation for the present of a gift card, which will be used for a new table for the hi-fi, still languishing in a box! She has also been 'trying out' the local Methodist Church! We thank Sr Anne for all her dedicated service to the Salem and Royton congregations over many years and send her and her family all good wishes for their new life in Suffolk.

Other services and bible study sessions have taken place including local World Day of Prayer service which was once again held in our church on 6th March and was well attended and enjoyed by all. The collection raised £192 for the World Day of Prayer organisation, and we thank Sr Benedek for organising and leading the service and all the readers for taking part. We will be using the order of service again on 12th July, to allow all those who were unable to attend in March to benefit from the service put together by the Christian women of Nigeria. During Lent, Br Woolford held a series of meetings called 'Gravity Defied', based on the film 'Wicked'. Br Woolford led the service on Mothering Sunday, 15th March. Thanks to Sr Ann Corr for providing gifts of bunches of daffodils.

As always, may the Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another. May you find joy in the daffodils and season of spring, where new things grow and days become lighter.

Srs Hannah Coope and Gail Holden

FROM CHURCH HOUSE

Provincial Call

Following the announcement that Br Peter Gubi will be retiring from full time pastoral ministry in August, we are pleased to share that Sr Jane Carter has accepted a Call to serve the Fairfield congregation, commencing on 1st September 2026.

Alongside this Call, Sr Jane will continue to respond to the wider call of the Church. While she will be dedicated to ministry at Fairfield, she will also share her gifts and leadership in ways that strengthen the life and mission of the Moravian Church as a whole. This includes her ongoing service as a non-stipendiary (part-time) Provincial Board member and the British Mission Board. We are grateful for this commitment and trust it will bring blessings locally and across the Province.

With regard to the Swindon and Tytherton congregations that she will be leaving in August, at present, we do not have a minister available to take up pastoral responsibility. In the meantime, we are grateful to Sr Lorraine Shorten for agreeing to lead communion services once every two months from September, and we continue to hold these congregations in our prayers as we discern the next step.

Provincial Board

Provincial Diary for June

- 3 Estates Board Online
- 17-18 Provincial Board meeting Church House
- 19 Deadline for Synod documents and reports to be received by the Provincial Board

Hurricane Melissa Appeal

The British Province is supporting recovery efforts following devastation left by Hurricane Melissa. To donate now, please contact Church House or go to www.justgiving.com/campaign/hurricanemelissaappeal

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths

20 February 2026	Harold Brierley	Salem
29th April 2026	Rose Calder	Hornsey

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 5 World Environment Day (www.worldenvironmentday.global)
- 15-21 Refugee Week (www.refugeeweek.org.uk)
- 16 Muharram/Islamic New Year
- 17 Renewal of the Brethren's Church: beginning of the building of Herrnhut by the immigrants from Moravia in 1722
- 21 Father's Day
- Summer Solstice
- 22 Windrush Day
- 26 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (www.un.org/en/events/torturevictimsday/)

Art Competition

Dr Livingstone Thompson and Professor Peter Gubi, along with several scholars in the Worldwide Moravian Church, are currently engaged in bringing together a book entitled: **Current Trends in Moravian Theology and Mission: The legacy of 13th August, 1727.**

On 13th August 1727, during a Holy Communion service at the Lutheran parish church in Berthelsdorf, the members of the Herrnhut community experienced a profound moment of spiritual renewal and reconciliation. It was like an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which manifested itself in that, as one person observed, 'we learned to love one another'. For this reason, the day is considered the spiritual 'birthday' of the renewed Unitas Fratrum (Moravian Church). It also has been called the 'Moravian Pentecost', although there were no signs of ecstatic or extraordinary spiritual manifestations. With this new sense of unity and purpose, the

Herrnhut community was transformed to grow into a movement for mission and evangelism of international scope. 13th August 1727 is therefore a reference point within the Renewed Moravian Church. The year 2027 marks the 300th anniversary of that event.

The book, which will be released to mark the 300th Anniversary, aims to celebrate that event, but also to reflect on the legacy of the Renewed Moravian Church in today's Church, and to encourage thinking across the Unitas Fratrum of how the past may help determine a future direction for the Worldwide Moravian Church.

One would think that such an important event would have been artistically represented in some way, but search as we have, there seems to be no such artistic representation. So, we are launching an art competition to create an image that captures this event of 13th August

1727. Artists, from across the Unity are being invited to participate and to submit entries for this competition.

The image adjudicated to be the winning image **will feature on the cover of the book and the winner will be awarded £500. A maximum of three complimentary awards of £100 will also be given for other submissions that are selected for inclusion in the book.** All awarded works will reside in the Moravian Archives of the British Province and be owned by the Moravian Church, British Province.

The closing date for the art competition is 31st July 2026.

Please submit your images digitally to Professor Peter Gubi at peter.gubi@moravian.org.uk or by post (postal address available on demand). We look forward to your participation and to seeing products of the creative talent across the Unity.



OVER THE WALL CAMP
UK Children's Charity

Free entry!

Heritage Celebration

OCKBROOK
THE SETTLEMENT, DE72 3RJ

Free parking

SATURDAY 20 JUNE
10am-12pm OR 12pm-2pm
Presentations at 10.30am & 2.30pm

With presentation by
Heritage Fund

Explore the rich heritage of Ockbrook School through the stories of former pupils and staff and uncover the hidden gems of the past!
Hear the latest update on our site's development.

Book your FREE place today!

www.otw.org.uk/event/heritage-celebration
Or call us on 01332 977589



This project is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, our 'Saving Ockbrook's Heritage' project aims to bring the Ockbrook site back into use, while preserving and celebrating its fascinating heritage.

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Friends of the Archive Day

Saturday 13th June 2026



You are invited to the Friends of the Archive Day which will be held in the Chapel at Moravian Church House, 5 Muswell Hill, London, N10 3TJ between 2pm-4pm on Saturday 13th June 2026.

We would like to celebrate and take this opportunity to thank everyone for their generous support over the years of the Provincial Archives located here with a presentation about the work of the Moravian medical missionaries, Dr Keevill and his wife Addie, who helped to establish the Sikonge Hospital in Tanzania in 1923. There will be an arrangement in the library of some of the wonderful treasures within our archives where you can learn more about the archives. Refreshments will also be provided.

If you would like to join us that day, please contact the archivist, Lorraine Parsons, for further details at: archive@moravian.org.uk.

We look forward to seeing you here at Church House.

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