

## ON THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

### President's Letter June 2025

Dear Sisters,

We are coming to the end of another year in our busy calendar and September marks our new theme 'Jesus the Storyteller'.

What a wonderful day we all had at Hall Green on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. It seems a long time since then. My thanks go again to all who did anything to help either with the planning or on the day.

As it is our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I reflected on the past years. I had been reading the booklet that was produced at the time of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This is called 'The First Fifty Years' and is well worth reading if you can obtain a copy from someone. In the opening years we were known as 'the Moravian Women's Auxiliary'.

We must give thanks to our founder, Sr Eileen Shawe who outlined her idea to ladies at the 1949 Synod. Her idea 'took off', the first circles being formed in 1950. Sr Shawe was the first President, and she was followed by Sr May Smith, Sr Janet Twine, Sr Janet Rea, Sr Olive Linyard, Sr Libby Mitchell, Sr Roberta Thompson, Sr Jane Carter and Sr Janet Cooper. You will remember some of these presidents. Our thanks must go to all these sisters for keeping Sr Shawe's dream going. Unfortunately, many of them are no longer with us.

I think the words Sr Shawe used in one of her early reports as President are still apt today. They were:-

"God has helped us wonderfully up to now and He has more work for us. May we be willing to listen to Him and be used in His Service".

For those who were not there I did report on the Central Committee decisions in my May letter, but I can also now report that we raised £4,593.44 for projects and the collection on the day was £305.50. That was a wonderful total and I know we have had at least a further £200 project money donated. I am sure we will put it all to good use. Thanks to all the sisters in the Province for this fundraising.

It is that time of the year when our young people are in the middle their examinations. I know that you will wish them well as many of us will have children and grandchildren undertaking these. It is a stressful time for the children and families. My grandson is soon approaching this, and I know I feel for him. Also, I do invigilate at a local boy's high school and see how nervous some of the boys get. Let us remember them in our prayers.

Let us not forget the adults who are still undertaking examinations and include any of sisters still studying in this. All the best to everyone.

The next retreat is in September 2025, and we are going back to The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanick, Derbyshire. Please consider attending. Forms have gone out but if you have not received one, please let me know and I will make sure you get one. (gillian.taylor@moravian.org.uk). I urge all sisters to think about attending our retreats as you will find fellowship with each other, and it is another way of meeting sisters from around the Province. The form did say we have booked twelve places, but we can increase this so do not worry if you are late booking.

Most of you will be thinking about summer holidays. At present the weather is encouraging and I hope you all have a wonderful summer. Get a well-earned rest and come back will renewed energy and enthusiasm. Remember Jesus said in Matthew 28 v20 –

*“Remember, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”*

Sr Audrey Kendall will be writing to you in July so when I write again it will be September and the start of our new theme. So, I hope you all rest over the summer and are back in September with a spring in your step.

*“Rejoice in the Lord always.” (Philippians 4:4)*

***The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another.***

Sr Gillian Taylor