



The Ordination of Sr Susan Quildan- Foreman



© Sr Sarah Groves

On Saturday 21st September 2024 Sr Susan Quildan-Foreman was ordained at Hornsey Moravian Church. It was a very special occasion in so many ways. It was wonderful to see someone who had served so willingly from youth, accepting and accomplishing the role God had reserved for her.

It was heart-warming to see so many family and members from Moravian churches, Hornsey, Harlesden and Harold Road where Susan is the present minister. Also, there were people who attended her Sunday school and youth group, friends from other churches, as well as colleagues from college and places of work.

The procession of bishops, candidate and ministers entered the church to the rousing singing of 'O Lord My God', the first of Susan's selected hymns. Bishop Sarah Groves led the opening prayers, followed by the Lord's prayer being said by all. The first of Sr Susan's requested bible readings, Colossians 2:1-2, 3:12-17, was read by her daughter Eleanor.

We continued with another wonderful rendition of 'Blessed Assurance' followed by the chorus 'This Little Light of Mine', first sung by Sr Susan's daughter and granddaughter, then the congregation. Sr Christine Emanuel, Susan's sister, then read the second scripture from Isaiah 6:1-9.

Br Michael Newman in his address outlined a little of Susan's

early years, baptised in a Methodist Church, attended a Baptist Church and went to a Church of England School. In her early teens, following her brother Edwin's example, she joined the Hornsey congregation. They both attended the young Christians group, run by minister Br Dick Connor and Sr Shelagh his wife. Susan enjoyed helping in church activities. Eventually, Susan and her sisters Christine and Sylvia led the Sunday and young people's group for many years. He spoke of a special Sunday school project Susan organised, a mosaic now hanging in the main hall. This was done to remember members who had passed away, their initials were incorporated in the design, many blank spaces were left, but they have now been filled. Susan supported the minister Br Joachim Kreusel, also being involved in other aspects of church life, without being at the forefront. She was appointed church superintendent, also member of the church committee.

Her training started at Northern College, and her first placement was with a husband-and-wife team pastoring eight United Reformed Churches. She then worked with a team of multi-faith Chaplain's at North Middlesex Hospital, and at a hospice which was quite an eye-opener, but a worthwhile experience. Due to COVID some of her training was done on Zoom. As the pandemic eased, she took part in leading services in Leicester and helped in the adjacent community centre.

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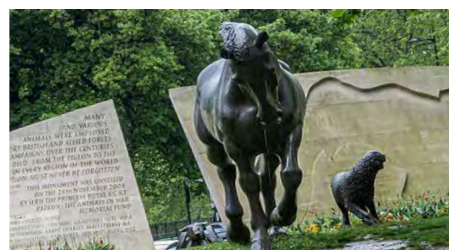
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Editorial

I am at the end of a short visit to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and have had a wonderful opportunity to visit some of the Churches here. It has been so good to see what the Churches look like, inside and out and to meet some of the ministers. It has been clear talking to all of them that like us, COVID has hit them hard and they are still working to rebuild their numbers on a Sunday.

What has been impressive and humbling however has not been their Church architecture but the ministries that the Churches are involved with. In a society where there is less governmental welfare support, the Churches have a hugely important role in helping those in trouble.

There are food banks and clothes stores and one Church has a massive kitchen where meals are cooked and frozen and then taken out to people and families in need. Another Church runs what is joyfully called 'The Essentials Café'. It is a lovely café with wonderful food where you can go in and eat for free or pay what you can afford or be generous. So not only the hungry but the lonely and the better off can mix in freedom and stories can be told and relationships built.

Another Church realised, through talking to parents, that there was no nearby worship provision for families where one member has learning difficulties. So, this Church runs a twice monthly afternoon service based on a programme called 'See Jesus' which is specifically designed so that those who cannot cope with regular Sunday Morning worship can be given appropriate, regular and accessible worship and teaching. The concept is that no one should be left behind when it comes to knowing and following Jesus.

It has been humbling visiting these Churches, most of them not much larger than our own and all with their struggles but nevertheless each trying to serve their neighbourhoods in different ways. I know our contexts are different, but it has given me much food for thought!



Sr Sarah Groves
Editorial Team

THE MORAVIAN CHURCH - BRITISH PROVINCE

Changes in an African hospital after 41 years

Sikonge Hospital

Sr Claire Summers invites you to join an online talk on
**Wednesday 6th of November 2024
at 6:30pm**

**Zoom Link: Meeting ID: 836 5887 7983
Passcode: 044052**

Sr Claire is a co-opted member of the British Mission Board and currently a member of the diaspora. In 1982 she went to the hospital in Sikonge, Tanzania, as part of her medical training and paid a brief return visit in 1998. In 2023 Sikonge Mission Hospital marked its centenary and Sr Claire accompanied Br David Howarth to the celebrations. During her visit Sr Claire saw many changes and improvements and would like to share these with you. There will be opportunities for questions at the end of the presentation. If you are unable to join the live presentation it will be recorded and available on the website.



Sr Claire Summers



British Mission Board (BMB) News

Moravian Church Western Tanzania:

We were delighted to welcome Br Richard Lwali, a member of the Provincial Board of Western Tanzania, to our Synod in July. We were able to engage in useful discussions with Br Lwali regarding our support of the Western Province. On 6th November at 7:30pm Sr Claire Summers will be hosting an online presentation on Zoom (see advert) based on her time working at Sikonge Hospital in Western Tanzania. This follows on from her visit with Br David Howarth when they attended the 100th Anniversary of the Sikonge District Hospital last year. This is an opportunity to document some of the verbal and pictorial stories of the Unity in line with the remit of the Heritage and Archive Committee.

South Asia Mission Province:

Following the resolution at Unity Synod that South Asia should become a Mission Province they held their very first Synod in January 2024. Plans are now underway for their second Synod in January 2025. The new Provincial Board, under the chair of Br Shanti Kuman Pradhan, meet every week to consider matters such as their structure, and the legal registration of the Province to enable the development of budgets and financial structures, working towards self-sufficiency.

In November this year the Province will hold its first Women's Conference in Rajpur. Representatives from all congregations and districts have been

selected with over forty women attending. The theme will be 'Women of Vision'. Sr Julie Tomberlin of the Unity Women's Desk plans to be the keynote speaker and Sr Jane Carter will attend.

BMB: The British Mission Board continues to meet on a quarterly basis online but recently met in Ockbrook for an Away Day. This was an opportunity to meet in person, which always brings a new dynamic to discussions, and move away from our usual agenda and consider the wider remit of the BMB, especially in light of the evolving relationship with the South Asia Mission Province and our role within the Unity. We plan to continue with this pattern next year.

Raising Faith Monthly from the Youth and Children's Committee (YCC)



© Sr Lorraine Shorten

I first experienced Godly Play during my training for ministry at a West Yorkshire Churches Together meeting. I was blown away by how simple the story telling was but how deep the thinking came out of the group.

Godly Play is a way of exploring and developing spirituality. It was developed by Rev Dr Jerome Berryman, a US theologian and educationalist. It was devised for use with primary school children but is a successful tool for all ages. It is a creative and imaginative approach to Christian nurture and spiritual life and is used with adults and children in churches, schools, hospitals, care homes for the elderly, and in prisons.

Godly Play is a Montessori-inspired way of telling Bible stories, the idea being that they are translated not into another language, but into 3D. Little wooden figures, sand boxes for the desert, green felt to represent the world or a meadow. The Godly Play creation story, shown in the picture, is told using seven plaques showing the seven days of creation in stylised form on a background of black or navy felt. The story narration is pared down to the bare minimum to allow the participants to sit with their own thoughts and feelings. Young people and adults benefit so much from taking a step back and fully immersing themselves in play. Berryman describes this way of learning as 'inviting God to come and play'.

In Godly Play teaching, parables, sacred stories and liturgical lessons are entered into in an experiential discovery way rather than taught. This way of learning engages the whole person - hands, heart, mind, senses and intuition. After the

As a newly formed YCC we start the year with many hopes to help facilitate you in growing your faith whether you are 3 or 34! We intended to start a YCC email but agreed instead to focus on sharing resources and ideas through a monthly *Messenger* article which we hope may reach a wider readership.

Each month we are inviting people to write on a topic which engages children, families and young adults in their experience of faith. It might be that some months we are learning about a new way of hearing Bible stories, such as this month. Another month it might be a new way of being or doing church together. Another might be something completely different. Our hope as YCC is to encourage each person who reads this

article to reflect a little more on whether this may be something they or their family might be interested in learning more about. Also, we hope it might be a resource for church communities to get some new ideas and inspiration on how to reach out to families and young people.

Thank you to Sr Lorraine Shorten who provided our first article below. We look forward to sharing more with you over the coming months.

Your YCC Committee: Sr Katie Groves-Bond, Br Kieran Hopton, Sr Lol Wood, Sr Claire Maxwell, Sr Rachel Hamilton and Br James Woolford. Our Provincial Board members this time are Sr Roberta Hoey and Br Michael Newman with Br Joachim Kreusel our Bishop in attendance.

Godly Play

story is told the narrator asks a few 'I wonder ...?' questions such as 'I wonder which is your favourite day? Could we do without any of the days?' etc. These are all asked in a safe space and there are no right or wrong answers.

There is a passage in Matthew's gospel: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven' (NRSV, Matthew 18:30). I have heard and read this passage many times, but it is only through doing Godly Play that I understand better what Jesus was telling his disciples. Jesus is not saying we should revert to childish behaviour or a naive understanding of God, what Jesus is telling us is we need to see and learn about God with the joy and rapture of a child. We need to allow ourselves to be vulnerable, open ourselves to new possibilities and learning. Berryman says: *'In Godly Play, we enter into parables, silence, sacred stories and sacred liturgy in order to discover God, ourselves, one another and the world around us.'* (Berryman. Godly Play volume 2).

I love leading Godly Play sessions. I shared the Creation story with the 2nd Bath Boys Brigade and Girls Association at their camp and over the summer Bath Weston, Bath Coronation Avenue and Brockweir congregations have immersed themselves in a variety of stories.

If you would like to find out more, please get in touch with me.

Sr Lorraine Shorten

*Minister for Bath Weston and Bath Coronation Avenue
Congregations*

An update from the recent Unity Board Meeting: *Steadfast in Growth*



© Sr Roberta Hoey

Between 23rd and 30th September, the Unity Board of the Worldwide Moravian Church convened their biennial meeting in Antigua (Eastern West Indies Province). The Unity Board is the governing body of our worldwide church that sits between Unity Synods, which last took place in Cape Town, South Africa in September 2024. The Unity Board is composed of Chairs, or representatives of the 25 Provincial Boards of the Unity Provinces as well as eight Mission Provinces. While this may seem slightly complicated, the joy lies in recognising that it is brothers and sisters from many different cultures, languages and backgrounds coming together to work collaboratively as a collective, determined to learn from each other and build upon our shared heritage and mission.

Our theme this year was: *Steadfast in Growth: Upholding Identity, Embracing New and Established Work Amidst Persecution and Changing Landscapes*. Following outcomes from the Unity Synod, the door has been opened to discussions on the inclusivity of the Moravian identity, exploring how the church can remain true to its theological foundations while being open to diverse expressions of faith. The Unity Board also acknowledges the difficulties faced by Christians, including Moravians, in parts of the world where political and religious pressures challenge their ability to worship freely. Amidst changing global landscapes, the Moravian Church rejoices in regions where religious freedom thrives, though it remains mindful of the economic and political hurdles that some congregations face.

As we started to gather for the week, we were welcomed with a wonderful reception hosted by the Eastern West Indies Province. This was a time for greeting each other and fellowship before we began our business sessions. Our days started and closed with prayers and singing. As Unity Board President, I chaired the meetings and, along with Br Jørgen Bøytler, the Unity Board Administrator, we presented the reports and updates on the ongoing working of the Unity Office. This was followed by presentations from each of the Unity and Mission Provinces. We also heard updates from mission areas and emerging mission areas.

Resolutions from the Unity Synod 2023 were addressed. This included the establishment of new Mission Areas in Angola and Brazil, the Moravian Church's role in Practical Creation Care, and discussions on Unity statistics, specifically regarding the concept of membership. A significant resolution was the *Unitas Fratrum Apologetic Efforts for its Complicity in the Institution of Slavery*, where it was further agreed that research into the Moravian Church's historical involvement with slavery would involve both Moravian and independent research from the University of the West Indies.

We welcomed Sr Anda Nkosi, President of the Moravian Church

Foundation and we directed their priorities for the next inter synodal period. Reports from Unity Undertakings and Committees, including the Unity Committee on Theology (UCOT), the Unity Mission and Development Board (UMDB), the Unity Youth Committee (UYC), and the Women's Desk (UWD), were shared and discussed. A new Unity Archives Committee (UAC) was also formed. We heard of the difficulties faced at Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre in the West Bank, affected by the conflict in Israel and Palestine. The staff at the centre remain committed to continuing their work and the Unity Board reaffirmed our commitment and support to Star Mountain.

There was a focus on the Unity's financial position, with a recognition that over recent years many Provinces had fallen into arrears with assessments. Going forward we will enter into a period of financial reconciliation, with plans to write off debt from 2014-2016, and establish a covenant as a Unity to focus on the contributions in the year ahead, reducing older arrears by a percentage based on full payments going forward. While a challenging discussion, there was a shared resolve and solidarity showing a desire to mutually support each other.

As well as the formal sessions, I deeply valued the opportunities of fellowship and eating together. This was a chance to build relationships and share experiences and ideas. On Sunday 29th September the Unity Board split themselves across the 15 congregations on the Island of Antigua and I was delighted to bring greetings to Lebanon Moravian Church. A highlight of the day came when I arrived at the congregation and heard my name shouted across the yard. I was delighted to be greeted by sisters from Harold Road congregation in London, it really is a small world!

As the week concluded, regional representatives were appointed to form the Unity Executive Committee:

- **African Region:** Br Erord Simae, Tanzania Rukwa Province
- **American Region:** Br Neil Routh, American South Province
- **Caribbean and Latin American Region:** Br Algernon Lewis, Eastern West Indies Province
- **European Region:** Sr Roberta Hoey, British Province

I was honoured to be re-elected President of the Unity Board, with Br Algernon Lewis elected as Vice President. I am very grateful for the hard work that was committed to by all members of the Unity Board, Br Bøytler, our secretary Br Jeremy B Francis and our Spanish translator, Sr Yisselle Bridge. This meeting was not only a time for business but also storytelling, as we learnt from each other and strengthened our bond as one Church. I give thanks to our Chief Elder, for guiding us forward in unity and strength - Jesus, still lead on!

Sr Roberta Hoey
President of the Unity Board



Animals in War

In the centre of London, on Park Lane, the impressive and thought provoking 'Animals in War Memorial' was unveiled by HRH The Princess Royal in November 2004, the 90th anniversary of the start of World War I. This monument is stamped with the footprints of mules, horses, carrier pigeons and dogs to commemorate the loyalty, sacrifice and courage of these valiant creatures. Whether as messengers, transporters of equipment and troops, medical assistants, or search and rescue workers, animals have played and continue to play a role in human conflicts and deserve to be remembered. On the memorial there are two inscriptions. The first reads 'This monument is dedicated to all the animals that served and died alongside British and allied forces in wars and campaigns throughout time'. The second simply states 'They had no choice'.

The sheer number and variety of animals, from elephants to glow worms used in war and the tasks undertaken by them is incredible.

Horses have been used for centuries in war and are depicted in thousands of paintings and statues across the world. In the First World War alone, over eight million horses, donkeys and mules perished. That number is more than the human population living in London at that time. Many horses that survived the war didn't make it back home as the transportation costs were deemed to be too high, so they were sold for meat to the French.

Dogs were invaluable and served many needs, from rat catchers, laying telephone wires and first aid carriers in the trenches in the First World War, to search and rescue dogs in subsequent wars. One such dog, Jet, was an Alsatian and, along with his handler, was responsible for recovering 150 people from buildings destroyed in German air raids. On one occasion, Jet

located a woman buried in debris and refused to move for 12 hours whilst rescuers tried to reach her.

When the crew of HMS Grasshopper were taken prisoners of war, they managed to have their ship's mascot, a dog called Judy, also registered as a prisoner of war, to safeguard her life. She was extremely protective of her fellow POWs, and she barked and growled to distract the guards when they mistreated the prisoners. She would also leave camp to bring back food for them.

More recently, a dog called Bass demonstrated his bravery during a night raid in May 2019 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. During a firefight with the Taliban, Bass identified five improvised explosive devices (IEDs) hidden in a building that the team was about to clear, saving the lives of Americans and Afghans.

Pigeons of course, were vital to the war effort, with their ability to take messages back and forth. In 1942, a badly damaged RAF bomber ditched into the North Sea. As the aircraft went down, their carrier pigeon, Winkie was set free in the hope she could fly home to Dundee. After flying 120 miles she was discovered, exhausted and covered in oil. The RAF were able to calculate the position of the downed aircraft using the time difference between the plane's ditching and the arrival of the bird - taking into account the wind direction and even the impact of the oil on Winkie's feathers to her flight speed. A rescue mission was launched, and the men were found within 15 minutes. Winkie became the toast of the air base, with a dinner held in her honour.

One pigeon, GI Joe, saved more than 1,000 lives when he got a message through that a village about to be bombed had actually been recaptured by British forces.

Camels were used in the Sinai and Palestine campaigns. Their ability to carry heavy loads and go without water made them an ideal mode of transport in hot climates. In the First World War, canaries and mice, who are very sensitive to different gases were watched closely and their agitation would alert soldiers that the air was becoming toxic. Cats caught rats in the trenches. On the home front, circus elephants were commandeered for agriculture and haulage. Dolphins and sea lions were used to defend harbours from sea mines and divers, and to locate underwater mines. Rats were used to sniff out mines. Bees were trained to associate the smell of explosives with food. As for glow worms, soldiers would read important messages by their faint lights instead of using lanterns that the enemy might spot.

Animals were not only used for work. Dogs, cats, and more unusual animals including monkeys, foxes, goats, pigs, mice, bears and lions were kept as pets and mascots to raise morale and provide comfort amidst the hardships of war.

In recognition of their bravery and service, many animals were awarded The Dickin Medal. This is the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross. It was inaugurated during the Second World War in December 1943 by Maria Dickin, the founder of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA), for animal gallantry or devotion to duty in war or conflict. More than 60 animals have since received the award, including 18 dogs, three horses and one cat. But pigeons still rule the medal roost, with 32 being given medals, all between 1943 and 1949.

At the time of writing, no glow worm has received such recognition!

Sr Lindsey Newens
Editorial Team

The Ordination of Sr Susan Quildan-Foreman *(continued from front page)*

Subsequently, she was called to Hornsey to join Br Michael. During her 18 months there, he valued her insight, involvement and enjoyed working with her. She led worship twice monthly, Bible studies, charring meetings, in fact participating fully in the life of the church. She has now been called to serve the Harold Road congregation, and how she has adapted to both churches admirably to serve on her own.

After the doxology the bishop as her fellow elder, gave his final charge. To tend Christ flock, watch and care for them as God watches and cares for you. Support the weak, comfort the dying seek the lost, bring in the outcast. Proclaim the Gospel. After this charge, it was my privilege from the Hornsey congregation to dress Sr Susan with the surplice and Brs Christopher and Junior Mwaisango from the Harold Road congregation presented her with a Bible.

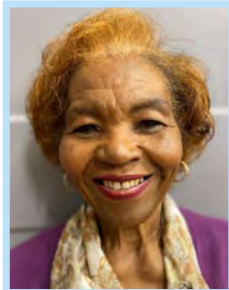
The service continued with two beautiful renditions from an excellent opera singer Olive Murray, 'Ave Maria' and 'I know that my redeemer liveth', while the bishop signed the Ordination Certificate. After the Benediction, and during the recessional hymn 'Great is thy faithfulness', the bishop, Sr Susan and other ministers processed from the Church.

The hall was beautifully decorated, and the steel band with Br

Harry Hughes and his group played lovely music and once everyone was seated, prayers were said, and the feast began. The food was excellent and in abundance, fruits, drink and a variety of cakes.

Sr Susan thanked everyone for attending, she made a special mention of a few people who have been great support and encouragement to her over the years. She also talked about parental advice given to them by their father, saying; he taught them to play cricket and other games, but instilled the meaning of fair play. Her mother made sure they regularly attended church, so teamwork and being fair means a great deal to her. All in all, it was a very special occasion, the significance of the service, the rousing singing, meeting and greeting with friends, and long-lost acquaintances. This day and an occasion will have a special impact not only on Sr Susan. May God continue to pour out His richest blessings on her, as she goes forward in faith and trust giving her strength in everything she does.

Sr Hyacinth Christian
Hornsey



Retired Ministers' Retreat

Carter. At 11.30am we attended a presentation given by Sr Lorraine Parsons to the Friends of the Archives on the glass slides held in the archives on the early history of the church as well as some commercially produced ones on biblical stories. Dr James Rollo also spoke about his research and his thesis 'Contemporary English Moravian identity in historical perspective'. Following refreshments, we joined the congregation at Hornsey along with friends from around the Province for the Ordination of Sr Susan Quildan Foreman. Br Kreusel officiated, and Br Michael Newman gave the address which illustrated the path which Susan had taken to get to this point in her life.

Refreshments were served in the Church Hall and after enjoying these and the fellowship together, Brn Hopcroft and Evans departed for the trip north.

After three glorious days of weather, food and fellowship, we encountered atrocious weather on our way home, but nothing could dampen our spirits after the time we had spent together. I thank Br Hopcroft for organising the retreat and for sharing fellowship over these last few days. We look forward to our next retreat when we trust more may be able to join in the fellowship of the occasion in 2026.

Br Kenneth Evans

every Friday morning open the gates to allow visitors to come in for free coffee and biscuits, have a look around the grounds and the Church and learn something of the history of the Moravian Church and the history of Fetter Lane. Br Newman took us on a guided tour of the grounds and even though we had been before it was good to see it all again and learn something new. In the hall we enjoyed fellowship with the members there and with visitors who came in.

After a light lunch we made our way back to Church House to relax before our evening meal. In the evening accompanied by members of the Provincial Board and Church House staff we went for a very enjoyable meal, but this time we took the bus up Muswell Hill. Evening prayers followed before we retired to bed.

Saturday morning, we were joined for breakfast and morning prayers by Sr Jane



© Sr Lindsey Newsen

The retreat was held at Church House in London, between the 19th and the 21st September 2024. Numbers attending were limited due to various reasons and only Brn Hopcroft and Evans were available to attend.

We arrived at Church House at around 4pm, settled into our rooms and then had some meaningful talks with some of the board members present. We talked about what was on the agenda for the coming two and a half days and then relaxed until it was time to go out for an evening meal.

We walked up Muswell Hill, it seemed steeper than last time I did that walk, but we made it and enjoyed fish and chips at Toffs Restaurant. The walk back to Church House down Muswell Hill was much easier.

The next day at 10am we met Br Michael Newman to travel to Fetter Lane, who

'What I Believe'

Moravian Messenger Editor Sr Sarah Groves interviews Sr Roberta Hoey, Chair of the Provincial Board of the British Province and newly reelected as President of the Unity Board.

Tell us about your background, early years, education and your family

I have been based in London for more than ten years, but my heart still very much lies in Northern Ireland. I was born in Belfast and grew up in County Down. I am grateful to be part of a supportive family that spans different generations; have nieces and nephews from the age of two to twenty-two.

I studied Law at Queen's University Belfast for both undergraduate and postgraduate, as well as time at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. studying a mix of Business, Philosophy and Theology. From there I ventured into the corporate world of international banking and markets. I relocated to London with a brief period in Greece before I applied for the vacant position on the Provincial Board in 2016.

How and when did you come to faith?

My commitment to my faith came as a teenager around a campfire at Summer Camp. However, my faith was nurtured very much at home, with my late dad, Br Billy Hoey and my mum, Sr Eunice Hoey. Dad had in many ways a simple faith that I've come to treasure and recognise as being central to Moravian theology; one based on faith in the divine, hope in tomorrow and a love for all. Mum is a woman of action and determination in the face of challenge and difficulties, she has shown me the practical side of faith, to show love through doing, not to give in and just to get on with it!

What youth and other ministries have you been involved in with the Church?

I was a youth leader and eventually Sunday School teacher and Summer Camp leader. The Irish District Youth work was very formative for me, and I took part in different ministries including Embrace Ballysillan, a community project, and Nightreach, a city street ministry. On the more administrative side of things, I was a member of my congregation committee and the Provincial Book Committee.

What have you learnt from your time on the Provincial Board?

No two days are the same on the Provincial Board, and through this, I know that I will always be learning. I have come to rely on the collaborative and collegiate nature of the Provincial Board and I am continually in awe of our congregations, and their courage and determination to continue even in the face of challenge and change.

What can we learn from the wider Moravian Church?

It takes commitment and determination to remain a single Church but finding the middle ground together to follow our Chief Elder, Jesus Christ is the most rewarding of pathways. Our diversity is our strength, and our unity is our witness.



Have you ever been angry with God, and if so, why?

To answer this one, I need to explain that I feel like my prayer life takes the form of a constant stream of conversation with God - from the formal to the free style, from the joyful to the skeptical. At times where I have felt angry or stressed, I look

back and realise that God hasn't fallen silent on me but that I have fallen silent and am not focusing on Him through prayer. I highly value the verse of thanksgiving following the Lord's Supper: 'Father we give you thanks and praise, that when were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home...'

Are you afraid to die, or can you look beyond death? Do you believe in a resurrection, and if so, what will it be like?

I continue to process my feelings about death, and fear is still in the mix, more so around the death and loss of others.

However, I have peace with the idea that death is a part of life, because in turn I believe that life is a part of death. I believe in resurrection, as a transformative experience. The risen Christ is present in our world and through the resurrection, we are called together to change, to live out his values of love and justice, to be transformed today, with the hope of the divine tomorrow.

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

Bruce Springsteen is my favourite musician - I love the way he creates community and tackles issues of social justice through his art. As for books and films, anything that is in the realm of fantasy and sci-fi usually captures my interest!

Your greatest joy in the life of the Church and in your own personal life?

I love the opportunities to meet new people, build relationships and navigate cultures across the British Province and the wider Unity. In my personal life it is much the same, I love to travel and explore. Last year I had the chance to hike the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

The place where you feel closest to God?

Usually when I am taking time to be active outdoors - hiking or wild swimming both ground me and help me feel more connected to God and His creation.

What inscription on your gravestone or epitaph, if any?

If I have a gravestone, I would like it to be simple in the Moravian tradition, only my name and dates. However, if I were to have an inscription for passers-by, I would use Micah 6:8 - 'He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?'

Heritage Day Reports

If you're considering opening your site for an Open Day next year, and would like help with ideas, getting started, registering etc., please contact the Provincial Archive and Heritage Committee by email: pahc@moravian.org.uk.

Bath Weston Heritage Open Day

Heritage Open Day (H.O.D.)? Not for everyone. But then again, 'it's not just about heritage'.

Calling upon the resources of Holy Habits, and the goodwill of the congregation, Weston Free Church (Moravian) took the plunge and registered for the event. We settled on a Saturday afternoon: 7th September, 12pm to 4pm to be precise. Now, all we needed was something to advertise. And some advertising. And someone to see the adverts. And some volunteers. And some good weather.

In Weston, there is a good number of community groups and charities. Embracing this year's theme of *Routes-Networks-Connections*, these groups were contacted and offered a free space from which to showcase their activities, in return for spreading the word on their social media. Several replied in the affirmative, with the bonus that contacting different groups attracted variety. The H.O.D. website was revisited to update our list of 'what to see and do', and to claim some free goodies - a banner, children's activities, stickers, name lanyards, liability insurance. Even a free tote bag to carry it all in. Gosh! These H.O.D. people think of everything. Armed with some advertising and something to advertise, the call was sent out for volunteers to help with refreshments. How were our Holy Habits doing?

Sharing Resources? Tick. Gladness and Generosity? Tick.

As the event neared, the skies did not look promising. Ominous grey clouds were gathering, and the temperature was dropping. It rained all through Friday.

However, on the Saturday, we were blessed with dry weather, which was doubly fortuitous as I'd cajoled our neighbours into showing off their vintage open top car. In the Hall a train set was set up as we welcomed the various community groups and charities, and the Boys' Brigade.

In the church were stalls for local history groups, children's activities and a craft fair organiser. For our heritage, we blew the dust off our Visitors' Book and resurrected some information boards from the Church's 50th Anniversary celebration. These were exhibited alongside information about upcoming church activities, such as crafting and film nights. Rev Lorraine was particularly proud of her 'What Have the Moravians Done For Us?' display. As traditional hymn music played in the background, the room retained a sense of the Church's past, present and future.

In mid-afternoon, visitors were entertained with live music from KipDuo, who sang arrangements of Kipling poems set to folk music.

The aforementioned advertising proved itself. In addition to the visiting crowds, an historian donated a video he had made about the history of the village. This was set up in a side room. Playing



© Sr Lorraine Shorten

through a projector and on a loop, it was very popular, with seats being occupied in rotation all afternoon. So much so that, due to popular demand, we have his permission to sell DVDs of the film to further our Ministry in Weston.

Biblical Teaching? Tick. Worship? Tick. Fellowship? Tick.

As always, refreshments were popular, where weary legs were rested,

memories shared and recommendations of 'what to see next' overheard.

Serving? Tick. Breaking Bread? Tick. Eating Together? Tick.

As 4pm rolled around, people began to drift away, with promises on their lips of joining such and such a group, or attending the next history lecture, or telling their friends of what they had witnessed.

Making More Disciples? Tick.

All in all, our prayers were answered. Our call to the community had been heard. Our Heritage Open Day had been a success. And it wasn't just about heritage! Prayer? Tick.

My thanks to all the groups, committees, volunteers, friends and visitors. We may do it again next year. And the year after. It could become a habit. A holy habit ...

Br Christopher Shorten
Weston Free Church (Moravian)

Heritage at Lower Wyke, Yorkshire

It was with warm hearts we welcomed visitors and friends to view our heritage of which we are so proud. The sun streamed in through the windows of our little Church as we met friends old and new. The exhibits have been displayed for many years but in different formats, this year I chose to present of little of all our collection.

It proved to be a success according to the comments by our own Congregation here at Lower Wyke

Sr Diana Hughes



CONGREGATION NEWS

Fetter Lane, London

Tricia Jameson (1939-2024)

In early September, members of the congregation joined the family and friends of Sr Patricia (Tricia) Jameson for a memorial service following her death in July at the age of 85.

As Sr Naomi Hancock recalled, Trish was an interior designer by trade and was responsible for removing a false ceiling in Studio 1, to reveal the beams we appreciate so much today. She was also flower secretary and until recently produced some beautiful arrangements in the Chapel for special occasions such as Easter and Harvest. A very artistic and

talented person.

As well as her contribution to the congregation, Tricia was a very early member of the Mary's Meals charity which raises funds to provide school meals in some of the poorest parts of the world. The group runs twice-monthly second-hand book sales at the Close, which have become a Chelsea fixture.

At Tricia's memorial service, led by her two sons, we learned more about her very full life as a young woman in Notting Hill and Chelsea in the exciting 60s and 70s. She will be missed by a loving family, many friends and by her Moravian sisters and brothers.

Sr Cynthia Dize

Hornsey, London

As is probably the same for a lot of churches, as we reach July our regular groups and meetings wind down for the summer months as many people go away to warmer climes. We still had a fair amount happening, in the form of celebrations. At the end of July, we held a concert in our church hall, with a variety of soloists, guitarists, a choir and our very own steel band. Everyone was treated to a delicious spread of food (as always) before the concert got started. The afternoon was a huge success and enjoyed by all, raising nearly £1,000 for church funds. A big thank you to Sr Patricia for her many months of planning and organising of the occasion and a big thank you to all who helped and gave up their time, whether that was to perform, help cook and serve the food or help with the setting up and packing away.

It was a quiet start to August for Hornsey until Sunday 18th when Br Michael conducted a quadruple Baptism of siblings Josephine, Kenneth, Jayden and Mya Slight-Henry. It was a wonderful service and welcome of the four children into our church family.

A couple of weeks later we hosted another joint service with Campsbourne Baptist Church, one of the local churches with whom we have shared services in the past. We will be having a joint service at their building early next year.



© Sr Anne Stennett

Quite possibly the biggest celebration of the summer was Sr Birdie Stennett's 95th birthday celebration and lunch on Sunday 8th September. Many of Sr Birdie's family and friends were there to help celebrate and during the service a special blessing and prayers were said by Br Michael. The celebrations continued after the service with a lovely lunch for everyone in the church hall, organised by Birdie's children Anne, David, Michael and Yvonne. As the photo shows, Birdie had a wonderful time celebrating. Once again, very special birthday wishes from the Hornsey congregation.

Our September celebrations continued with Sr Susan Quildan-Foreman's Ordination service held on Saturday 21st September. The afternoon was well attended with church members from near and far and many of our ministers there to support Sr Susan and join in with the fellowship on her special day. You can read more about the afternoon in the special article written about the service.

As we all know, around this time of year, we all hold our annual Harvest Festival services and this year Hornsey was treated to the Newman duo taking the service together. That is of course, Br Michael and his dad, Br David Newman who is no stranger to everyone at Hornsey, and he gave the children's addresses. It was a service of thanks for the big number of food items which will be donated to our local food bank.

Sr Claire Newman

Harold Road, London

On Saturday 21st September our minister, Sr Susan Quildan-Foreman was ordained as a deacon at Hornsey Moravian Church. The service was conducted by Bishop Joachim Kreusel. Br Michael Newman gave a thoughtful sermon outlining the journey Sr Susan has already made in her faith and giving signposts for the future.

The service was well attended and the food, music and fellowship afterwards were exceptional. We are hugely grateful to the Hornsey Congregation for their skill and hard work in arranging everything.

We will continue to do our best to make Sr Susan's time with

us rewarding and enjoyable.

Earlier in the day, at Church House the annual 'Friends of the Archive Day' took place.

Archivist Lorraine Parsons gave a fascinating presentation about the collection of early glass slides held in the archive, many of them featuring early Moravian Missions from all over the world.

James Rollo who is conducting research into Moravian Settlements in the British Province described his work at Fulneck and Fairfield where he has found that the early Moravian ethos lives on today. Both presentations were fascinating. Thank you.

Br Michael O'Sullivan

Lower Wyke, Yorkshire

Rev Claire Maxwell conducted a wonderful service on 6th October surrounded by families, friends and congregation of the four new members: Stacey Wilson was baptised;

Jacqueline Read was confirmed; Christine Ayres and Rebecca Stobart were received into membership.

Sr Diane Thornton

Horton, Yorkshire

Autumn is well and truly here and as we look forward to our Harvest Service many of us will think of the hymn 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter'. At Horton we hope that our faith, friendship, sharing and caring gives a different meaning to this phrase and we hope we may have touched the lives of those we come into contact with in lots of different ways. Our services and events this year have reached quite a lot of both church members and visitors. As well as our regular services in church we have held special family services, joint services with our sister church Lower Wyke, Café Church, a World Day of Prayer service, Sisters Festival, taken part in the Prayer Watch, met weekly for bible study and Holy Habits, supported a local food bank, sponsored a child's schooling in Assam, held



© Sr Linda Barraclough

an open day for the Heritage weekend and continued our monthly coffee mornings for the BD5 Churches Together where we now attract 20-30 people each month. In addition, we have held other social events and, as the photo shows, held another very successful fashion show. All of course accompanied with fellowship, cake and good Yorkshire tea!

As a congregation we always want to do more, so this is a lovely reminder to show what we have done and I hope everyone will be proud of what we have achieved together, and hopefully we can continue to 'plough and scatter' with all who we meet, and with God's guidance 'grow' our Church together.

Sr Linda Barraclough

Wellhouse, Yorkshire

On the 14th July we welcomed Tayha Waite into the Church of Christ by the right of Baptism, Br Evans baptised Tayha and Br Cooper conducted the remainder of the service, welcoming family and friends and giving the family address.

In September we have had a number of special events. The Women's Fellowship held their A.G.M. to elect the officials for the coming year and plan for the annual service, carol service and outing. On the 8th at the afternoon service Br Evans gave his report on the Provincial Synod held in July, highlighting points of special interest. On the 11th we said goodbye to an old Sunday School scholar Janet Ricketts (nee Moore) who passed away on the 23rd August, and she was interred in God's Acre alongside her parents. On the 15th we welcomed Katie Philpot and her Dance School to the Annual Presentation Service. It was a well-attended service with just short of 100 being there to see the young people receive their awards. The Wellhouse Cup for the Most Improved Dancer of the year went to Brooke Atkinson. On the 21st Brs Cooper and Evans

attended the Ordination of Susan Quildan-Foreman at Hornsey Moravian Church and on the 22nd Br Cooper led a service to 'Remember Loved Ones' and a number of recently bereaved families attended and brought something particularly poignant to them and their loved one. On the 29th we held our Harvest Thanksgiving Service led by Sr Claire Maxwell when the church was decorated with gifts of the harvest. All the tinned and



© Sr Katie Philpot

packets goods along with the blankets and warm clothing went to the Bradford Soup Run to help the homeless in Bradford.

On the 1st October the Women's Fellowship visited Horton to share Fellowship with the sisters there.

We continue with Holy Habits and continue sharing our resources with the community around.

Br Kenneth G. Evans

Royton, Greater Manchester

We have held several social events this summer which was clearly a blessing with the very inconsistent weather we have experienced, however come rain or shine, we meet and enjoy one another's company. Sr Beryl Healey invited us all to an afternoon of 'Music from the Shows' on Saturday 3rd August. We were treated to a selection of songs from a variety of musicals throughout the years, ranging from Rodgers and Hammerstein classics such as South Pacific and My Fair Lady through to more modern shows by Andrew Lloyd Webber and films from the Disney studios. The afternoon tea was delicious and £215 was raised for Church funds. Many thanks to Sr Beryl and her family for putting on such an enjoyable event.

On Saturday 14th September, we held a 'Fashion Show with a Difference'. The fashion show began with a rail of full of different outfits, some dressy, some casual, some bright, some white and some which had



© Sr Barbara Skiba

never been worn. People began to take their seats ready for Sr Lesley, three of our Sr Anns' and Br John to take the catwalk. With 'Vogue' and 'Murder on the Dance Floor' being played, different people wearing different outfits came down the catwalk. Sr Hannah gave a brief description of the outfits as our models took a walk and gave a few twirls. Some outfits were very 'mix and match' but that made the event even more enjoyable and funny. Afterwards many of the clothes were bought and a donation was given. We then shared in a buffet together and chatted, like Moravians always do.

The Moravian Women's Association unfortunately couldn't meet in August and had to be postponed due to illness. We hope to hold this event in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support later. A donation of £100 was sent to Macmillan from Circle funds. On Sunday 11th August we welcomed our neighbours from Trinity Methodists once again. It is good to share Christian Worship together, strengthening our ties and keeping our faith alive in Royton. As always, may the Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another.

God bless.

Srs Hannah Coope and Gail Holden

Leominster, Herefordshire



© Br David Howarth

Leominster held their Harvest Festival on 15th September. We were led for the first time by Sr Roberta Hoey, accompanied, as a welcome surprise to us, by Br David Howarth, who happened to be on his way back from a social occasion.

Our local food bank had requested non-perishable goods, but plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit were donated by members, their friends and relatives to add to the display. These the congregation took away, making donations to the organ fund.

Roberta's main theme was the rainbow, which she illustrated by bringing and arranging a rainbow of beautiful fruits and referring to all the lovely colours already arranged on the communion table. Her talk was heartfelt and memorable. We also enjoyed her choice of hymns, prayers and readings, learning a new, very appropriate hymn.

We also had a good laugh at our organist's pet hate, the use of the title 'We plough the fields and scatter' which needs the next line to make sense. I had drawn a card illustrating this for his upcoming birthday, so when the subject came up, he opened the card at my suggestion. He really appreciated my cartoon of people running away from a tractor ploughing a field!

Sr Dilys Howard

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

18th August 2024	Josephine Slight-Henry	Hornsey
18th August 2024	Kenneth Slight-Henry	Hornsey
18th August 2024	Jayden Slight-Henry	Hornsey
18th August 2024	Mya Slight-Henry	Hornsey
15th September 2024	Kitty Hawkins	Ockbrook

Received into Membership

15th September 2024	Br Martin Smith	Ockbrook
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Deaths

4th May 2024	Sr Connie Taylor	Horton
3rd October 2024	Br Peter Pass	Fairfield

FROM CHURCH HOUSE

Provincial Diary for November

2	Western District Conference	Brockweir
6	Sr Claire Summers reflects on Changes in Sikonge Hospital	Zoom
12	Archives and Heritage Committee Meeting	Online
13-14	Provincial Board meeting	Church House
17	Church Service Sunday	
21	British Mission Board Meeting	Online

Swindon, Wiltshire

As we look back over the summer months, we are grateful for all we have shared and achieved.

We continue to meet monthly to discuss and learn from the Holy Habits, led by Sr Jane.

Our sisters also meet monthly to share and discuss the MWA papers together.

We have visited many local fetes, fayres and carnivals, raising funds for MWA, YPMA, a local hospice and Oxford Special Care baby unit. Our treasurer completed a parachute jump (and if that wasn't enough - then cycled from London to Brighton!) before handing over a cheque for £2,000 to the baby unit.

Our hall is busy on Wednesdays, as we prepare Christmas shoe boxes for House of Opportunity Christmas appeal. We will, once again, be the drop off point for boxes in November.

District wise, we have enjoyed joining with Tytherton, alternating churches, on the 5th Sunday of the month. In September, we enjoyed a BBQ/beach day in South Cerney. Our friends from Brockweir joined us. Some managed a paddle and a few brave souls, a swim!

We celebrated Harvest, with the rainbows and their families joining us for a lively service. The girls helped to decorate the hall with their 'thankful wreaths'. A collection of tins and toiletries, donated by the congregation and the rainbows, was sent to the local food bank. The girls earned themselves a 'I did something kind today' badge. We also enjoyed a harvest lunch together after the service.

We have recently opened the hall to join in a local yard sale, raising money to help send our shoeboxes to Eastern Europe.

Before we enter the season of advent and the celebration of Christ's birth, we have many events and services in the planning stages. We will be celebrating our 125th anniversary with a service and lunch, giving thanks for 125 years of worshipping, working and witnessing in our neighbourhood, the wider community and the world, and also looking forward as we strive to do all we can, now and in the future, from our small corner here in Swindon.

We have our autumn council meeting to discuss moving forward, churches together skittle evening, Mary's meals porridge day, quiz night, wreath making afternoon, carol service, Christmas party Christingle/nativity, and numerous Christmas fetes in local schools and churches, to look forward to in the coming weeks.

Sr Sandy Mundy

Dates to remember!

1	All Saints' Day
	Diwali-Deepavali - Sikh/Hindu
5	Bonfire / Guy Fawkes Day
10	Remembrance Sunday
13	Realisation of the Headship of Christ in 1741
10-17	Inter Faith Week (www.interfaithweek.org)
11-15	Anti-Bullying Week (www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)
17	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (www.roadpeace.org)
19	International Men's Day
30	St Andrew's Day

Favourite Memorials

Sr Janet Warr writes about the post-box and sculpture at the entrance to Fairfield Square.

The present red pillar box was installed in 1990. It is a reproduction of a Victorian hexagonal type, known as a Penfold Box. Its inauguration was marked by an unveiling ceremony on 7th May 1990, attended by residents of the settlement, and marked by a special franking on letters posted that day.

Prior to the present box, there was a rectangular type of box, built into the wall of one of the Settlement shops at number 1 Fairfield Square, on the corner of the Settlement entrance and Fairfield Road. This box was peculiar in that the main body of the box was Victorian and marked 'VR' and the door was Georgian and marked 'GR'. It seems likely that this was because at some stage the door had been replaced. This box is now in the Museum collection.

When the partial remains of the shop and wall were demolished in the 1950s and the area landscaped, the box was transferred to a specially built stone wall near the present site. The wall was demolished when the Penfold Box was installed.

Behind the post box is a unique bronze statue. In 2009 Tameside MBC wished to celebrate the history and heritage of the borough with a statue in each of its nine towns. The statue for Droylsden was situated adjacent to the Moravian settlement and the sculpture highlights both the Moravian settlement and its importance to the history of both Droylsden and the borough. The statue represents a Moravian sister and a young boy, the books represent the importance of education to Moravians and the water jug how important a supply of water was to the citing of the Settlement at this particular place. The statue was officially unveiled on 18th September 2009.



An example of one of the commemorative envelopes with special franking on the first day of service of the Penfold Box, 7 May 1990.

© Sr Janet Warr



© Sr Sarah Groves



© Sr Sarah Groves

NOTICES

Lower Wyke 'Chat and lunch'

'Chat and lunch' will meet in the Sunday School Hall at Lower Wyke on Thursday 7th November between 11.30am and 2.00pm - all are welcome for discussions with their lunch.

Favourite Memorials

Do you have any favourite or unusual memorials or monuments in or around your congregation that you would like to share with us? If you could send us a photograph with some details about the memorial, why you have chosen it and what it means to you, we can publish it in the Moravian Messenger. For further details please contact the Editorial Team at:

editorialteam@moravian.org.uk

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