



MORAVIAN MESSENGER



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Gracehill Celebration of World Heritage Inscription

Many years ago, early in the World Heritage process, I recall giving an interview and saying 'Gracehill has been a good news story for 250 years and we want to continue that good news' - and so, on the afternoon of Thursday 15th May we did just that. The sun shone, the band played, and the people came. It was indeed a day to enjoy and celebrate the inscription of 'Moravian Church Settlements' as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A party of students from Moravian University, Bethlehem, USA, led by their President Prof Bryon Grigsby joined the many guests representing the wider community and government along with locals for the historic event. It was a particular pleasure to welcome The Lord O'Neill whose ancestor, The Hon Charles O'Neill, sold the land that was to become Gracehill to the Moravians over 260 years ago. We were honoured with the presence of a number of other guests including Her Excellency

Anna L. Nsubuga, UK Ambassador to UNESCO; Mrs Miranda Gordon, Vice Lord Lieutenant Co Antrim; Mrs Marion Lübbecke, German Honorary consul; Mrs Emma Little Pengelly MLA, Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland; Mr Gordon Lyons MLA, Minister Northern Ireland Department for Communities. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor as well as other councillors and Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly (MLA's) were also in attendance.

The afternoon commenced with a video recording of 'Lovely Gracehill', an old song by an unknown author. The words and music were found in the archives in Gracehill. The recording was filmed during the pandemic and involved pupils drawn from a number of schools in the cross-community Ballymena Learning Together group. It was used during the nomination process as it demonstrated not only the opportunities to bring people together but also the importance of involving young people, all of which is central to the ethos of World Heritage.

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Who is a local?

Most people had never have heard of the town of Ballymena, three miles from Gracehill, until early June! Then, because of the riots here it is on the news across the world. I was so touched by the many messages of concern that I received so thank you all. One of the messages was from Mike Riess, the editor of the 'Moravian' magazine, the equivalent of the Moravian Messenger in the United States who had seen the news in the New York Times!

Ballymena has a significant Romanian population many of whom work in the two large local meat processing plants. There is also a smaller Roma population, a Bulgarian community and a Filipino community some of whom have been here for many years and more who have come in over the last 18 months to work in a local bus factory.

Over recent years there has been an ugly rise in racist sentiment with uninformed comment like 'they are getting all the social housing' - untrue; 'they are all illegal immigrants' - unproven; 'they are getting our jobs' - untrue as they often work in areas that it is difficult to get others to work in.

The spark that set the rioting off was the news of an alleged sexual assault on a teenage girl by two teenage boys who were identified locally as being Roma. A crowd gathered in a local yard to protest at the assault and then



matters spilled into violence. The rioting in Ballymena was small scale over just a few streets and for a few evenings but it was absolutely poisonous in its nature.

Houses where people from immigrant backgrounds lived had windows and doors smashed in and there was an attempt to burn some places to drive people

out. A number of families fled and were housed for the short term in a leisure centre in a nearby town but when word of that happened folk attempted to burn the leisure centre down. Many families have left their homes and many more are traumatised.

Going through the area where this happened is very sad and for me the saddest part is seeing mass produced notices in people's windows that say, 'Locals live here'. Obviously they are put up to prevent mobs attacking their homes. But the consequence is that it leaves the homes of immigrants even more vulnerable than before. It somehow says, 'I am not them, I belong here, others have less right than me to be here, leave me out of it'.

I am not a local here, I never will be a local here, I will always be a 'blow in', but I won't be attacked because I am white and I speak English. How terrifying for those here who are not white and whose English bears trace of an accent. But if I lived in the riot affected streets wouldn't I put up a notice like that to protect my home and my family?

May God give courage, for all of us to stand against violence in word and deed against others and to stand for life and respect. May God give us wisdom to have difficult conversations about these issues with honesty and compassion. May God give us the hope we need to continue to work for peace, reconciliation and justice for all.

Sr Sarah Groves
Editorial Team



LETTER TO THE EDITORIAL TEAM

re Article by Br Jared Stephens in the March *Moravian Messenger*

In these times of dwindling congregations, it was so encouraging to see how he and his congregation 'Had a heart to engage with the ever-changing needs of the community outside the doors'. The phrase: 'What we do in worship is just one small fragment of what it means to be Christians together ... it has to have some connection with the outside world'.

As Natural Church Development champions for Ockbrook, it is these ideas and testaments that we believe can help make a difference here in Ockbrook.

Thank you, Br Jared, your article was so beautifully written and motivating.

Srs Rose Turner and Jackie Flint

Ockbrook

Raising Faith Monthly

from the Youth and Children's Committee (YCC)

Our article this month comes from Br James Woolford, member of the YCC and also the minister of the Moravian congregations at Baildon and Dukinfield.

We hope this inspires you as it did us, your YCC Committee: Sr Katie Groves-Bond, Br Kieran Hopton, Sr Lol Wood, Sr Claire Maxwell, Sr Rachel Hamilton and Br James Woolford.



Report on 'Come alive in 25'

This Pentecost Weekend the Yorkshire district launched an event called 'Come Alive in 25'. This was put together as part of the Provincial Board's grant that was made available to the districts to use with a focus on youth work. We met together to plan how best to use the grant in a way that would be sustainable and hopefully grow the work of each congregation and the idea of 'Come Alive in 25' was born.

It seemed apt to launch something new around the season of Pentecost, a time when we remember what is often referred to as the birth of the church. The plan was to have each congregation plan and run an event that is aimed at children and families on the Saturday and then join together for an act of family friendly worship which would be followed by a



themed afternoon with storytelling from a local group and arts and craft from the school and community. They also shared food and had a really good attendance with many new faces turning up. Horton held a neighbourhood coffee morning with 'Knit and Knatter' and children's crafts on

Pentecost as well as free play toys aimed at those five and under plus siblings. They had two new families and two individual people arrive, and they spoke afterwards about a desire to come back to church one day soon. Lower Wyke held a sports and craft day with the Pentecostal theme throughout with decorations provided for by our Adventurers Youth Group (those aged Year 3 and upwards). They provided written descriptions of what Pentecost is as well as chatted to the young people and families who joined us about its meaning over the craft activities.

Then on the Sunday we gathered at Lower Wyke where the service was led by Sr Maxwell, Br Cooper and myself as we looked at different aspects of the Pentecost story, from Peter's Strength to the Early Church's formation, to the believers being scattered and sent out to do mission to the world. The service was very well attended, and it was wonderful to gather in fellowship and song as we learnt some new hymns and sang some more traditional ones as well. Following the service we met in the church hall (the weather wasn't on our side) and shared in great food and fellowship together.

Looking back at it now, there was so much good work going on that weekend, but it all started from looking outwards to our communities and asking ourselves, what can we do that will help enable people to feel comfortable in a church environment. What can we offer? How can we open our doors and show people the love of God is alive and well and available for them? We hope and pray that the fruits of our labour grows into more people knowing that our churches are places of love and welcome and that those we have reached will grow in faith, strength and trust in us to be a place of warmth and love. Finally, we pray that our congregations learn from this and take confidence that the Spirit of God is as 'Alive in 25' in the same life changing way as in that first Pentecost Sunday.



Barbeque and games as an act of collective fellowship. The reasoning behind doing it this way, rather than simply organise one big event, was that families are far more likely to return to a church where they've had a positive experience. Therefore, if we wanted to help each church grow it needed to be a more localised effort but under one banner. What those events were, how they looked and who they targeted was left to the congregations to decide. This gave them the flexibility to look at what they could do best and what would serve the needs of the area of outreach as well. After the planning, proposals for the funding were submitted and we worked together to make it a real opportunity for the churches in Yorkshire to 'Come Alive in 25'.

Of the six congregations in the Yorkshire District, four held events on the Saturday. At Baildon they hosted the 'Minister Of Magic' show, which I talked about in last month's *Messenger*, and whilst it would have been nice to have a few more people present, all who came really enjoyed it and, crucially, spoke afterwards about learning more about faith. Fulneck hosted an animal

Gracehill Celebration of World Heritage Inscription (continued from front page)



Rt. Rev. Sarah Groves, as minister of Gracehill, then gave a formal and warm welcome to everyone and particularly highlighted Moravian traditions including the Daily Watchword.



Thereafter, with the long tradition of education in Gracehill that is maintained to this day by the Primary school, it was fitting that pupils entertained guests with their enthusiastic and joyous singing which brightened the day even further.

There followed a speech of welcome to the Borough of Mid and East Antrim by The Mayor, Alderman William McCaughey and Sr Roberta Hoey, President of the Unity Board of the worldwide Moravian Church brought greetings from the Board and from the British Province.

Mr Lazare Eloundou Assomo, Director of World Heritage at UNESCO in Paris had recorded an inspirational video message after which Ambassador Nsubuga gave an enthusiastic address before presenting the UNESCO Certificate of Inscription to Mrs Roberta Thompson, who received it on behalf of the Gracehill Community for safe keeping in the Moravian Archive of Ireland based in Gracehill.

Copies of the Certificate were presented to representatives of the Government, the Borough Council, the local business community and Gracehill Primary School.

The Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, Mrs Emma Little Pengelly MLA, addressed the audience, both congratulating the community and highlighting the potential that there is to build on the 'Giant Spirit' that exists in Northern Ireland.

Having started the proceedings with an old song the final musical item was a

new song, so new in fact, that this was the first public performance. Gracehill has a long tradition of music and hymn writers and perhaps inspired by that tradition one of the Gracehill organists, Ms Cherith Knipe, composed the words and music for a new hymn which celebrates Moravian Church Settlements - Gracehill. The words and music perfectly encapsulated the sentiments of the day and were performed by a specially organised choir conducted by Rev Kiran Young Wimberly and accompanied by Mrs Leah Greer on the piano and Ms Emma Dempsey on the violin.

Moravian Church Settlements - Gracehill Hymn **'This Ground'**
*This ground on which we're standing
 Born of vision and of prayer
 Is a place of Christian refuge
 To all who visit here.
 And through History's turning pages;
 Times of peace and times of fear.
 Now the world can share our calling
 And the faith we all hold dear.*

*This ground on which we're singing
 Echoes notes we love to hear
 Praises rising from God's acre
 Down to our village square.
 And our songs are full of thankfulness
 For all that God has done.
 Now the world can join our chorus
 And the race that's left to run.*

*This ground on which we're praying
 Showers blessings from above
 Both young and old it nurtures
 In Christian faith and love.
 Now we look towards our future*

*With an eye from where we came
 Now the world can stand beside us
 To praise His Holy name.*

*This ground on which we're planting,
 Reaching out to all who come,
 Holds the promise of renewal
 And transforming by the Son.
 Truth and light will always guide us
 To the world who waits to see
 How genuine our welcome
 That grows through you and me.*

Words & Music Sr Cherith Knipe © 2025

I concluded the afternoon with some final remarks including a presentation to mark the help and support of Mr Barry Gamble, the World Heritage Consultant, who had been so helpful during the nomination process. It is not for nothing that he is known as the 'James Bond of World Heritage'.

The formalities over, we spilled out to the Square where we basked in the warm sunshine and uplifting tunes from Ballyduff Silver Band, before enjoying a beautiful afternoon tea provided by another of our supporters, Galgorm Resort and Spa Hotel. Another day in Gracehill and another little bit of history.

And so over 20 years of effort had reached its conclusion. We had a vision, we built local partnerships, and we developed international networks. The prize of a transnational World Heritage Site is a huge, good news story for the Moravian Church locally, nationally and internationally, something that everyone can share in and be proud of, with the potential to promote understanding and reconciliation and bring social, economic and cultural benefits now and for generations to come.

Far from being the conclusion, this is just the beginning!

Br David J Johnston
 Gracehill



Members of the sponsoring churches of Christian Aid

Earlier this year we remembered the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe, VE Day. Following the aftermath of the horrors of the Second World War there were a lot of displaced people, prisoners of war, refugees who had fled their home country or people who had been displaced.

In 1945 Churches in Britain and Ireland joined together and started an organisation Christian Reconstruction in Europe (CRE) to address this matter and on the first Sunday after VE Day they launched an appeal and raised over £80,000 (the equivalent of £3 million today) to support and equip churches in Europe to meet the need of refugees.

Annual fundraising continued after the war and by the 1950s the work was expanded to support work in Palestine, Korea and China. In 1964 CRE was renamed as Christian Aid (CA). Every year for one week in May there is Christian Aid Week, a time for churches to focus their giving and support on the charity and its work around the world.

Christian Aid expanded its work and now supports humanitarian aid to communities suffering disasters, such as famine in East Pakistan [Bangladesh] and Sudan in the 1970s and Ethiopia in the 1980s, and political crises in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. Christian Aid created the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) in the 1960s so that development agencies were seen to work together in times of humanitarian crisis. CA campaigns on racism, apartheid, the root causes of poverty, developing world debt alongside climate change and

Christian Aid 80th Anniversary Service at Westminster Abbey held on Thursday 12th June 2025

the effects it has on the poorest communities.

On Thursday 12th June Br Philip Cooper and I, as Ecumenical Officers for the Moravian Church, joined Christian Aid for a breakfast meeting to share the recent work of Christian Aid.



The Rt Rev Dame Sarah Mullally DBE
 Bishop of London

Rt Rev Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London welcomed everyone, and we heard from Christian Aid partners from India and Kenya alongside Revd Dr Jerry Pillay, who also gave the address in the Abbey and Patrick Watt, CEO of Christian Aid.

This was followed by a special service in Westminster Abbey to

celebrate 80 years of work and support by the churches. It was a beautiful and memorable occasion; a highlight of the service was a procession of placards down the central aisle representing the eighty years of humanitarian work done by Christian Aid.

The Moravian Church was one of the sponsoring churches at the beginning of the campaign in 1945 and continues to encourage congregations to support Christian Aid week in May every year.

Sr Lorraine Shorten

Minister for Bath Weston and Bath Coronation Avenue congregations, and Provincial Ecumenical Officer.

British Mission Board (BMB) News

Moravians from across the globe gathered last week in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, for the 2025 Unity Mission and Development Board (UMDB) meeting. Representatives from the four Moravian Unity regions (Africa, Europe, Latin America & Caribbean, and North America), as well as Moravian mission agencies, met for two days to discuss challenges, celebrate our partnerships in mission, and coordinate plans for the near future. This board, created in 2009, continues to strengthen the relationships of the many Moravian mission leaders around the Unity! The British Mission Board was represented by Sr Jane Carter.



Human Trafficking Fuels Organised Crime: *A Call to Action*

Human trafficking remains a global crisis, driven and sustained by organised crime. This is not only my view but that of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). For years, the UNODC has worked to raise awareness of the complex issues surrounding this stain on humanity.

This year, the UNODC has designated Sunday 20th July 2025 as a special day to focus global attention on this urgent issue and inspire collective action. With past campaign themes such as Committed to the Cause, Hearing Victims' Voices, and Leave No One Behind, the 2025 theme asks the global community to reflect on how Human Trafficking Fuels Organised Crime.

Each year, more victims are trafficked - across longer distances, with increasing violence, for longer periods, and for greater profit. From 2020 to 2023, more than 200,000 victims of trafficking were detected globally (source: UNODC). This figure likely represents only a small portion of the true total, as many cases remain hidden and unreported.

Organised criminal networks are at the heart of this exploitation. They take advantage of migration flows, global supply chains, legal and economic loopholes, and digital platforms to traffic people across borders. Their profits are generated through forced labour, sexual exploitation, and coercion into illicit activities such as online scams and drug trafficking.

While it would appear that there has been some progress, criminal justice responses remain inadequate in tackling this fast-evolving and deeply rooted crime. It is believed by those organisations involved in this issue that ending human trafficking

requires a coordinated and comprehensive strategy:

- enforcing strict laws,
- conducting proactive investigations,
- strengthening cross-border cooperation,
- targeting the financial operations of criminal groups, and
- using technology to identify and dismantle trafficking networks.

Equally important is adopting a victim-centred approach - ensuring perpetrators are held accountable, and that survivors receive protection, support, and access to justice.

Now in its sixth year, the UNODC's World Day Against Trafficking in Persons continues to shine a light on this grave issue. Law enforcement agencies - including police, border forces, international organisations, and specialised task forces - are urged to play an active role, while we are encouraged to use online platforms and report any instances where there is a suspicion of exploitation, such as begging at traffic lights and other transport hubs, often with people putting themselves in harm's way.

Our commitment and action are essential. By bridging the gap between global advocacy and local realities, we can make meaningful progress in the fight against human trafficking - and ensure that victims are seen, heard and protected.

Br David Howarth
Mission and Society Committee



How did God call me into mission?

The inspiration and power of storytelling leading to a vocational journey from Hong Kong to Vietnam and Great Britain and on to Tanzania.

These experiences, combined with many others, inspired me to seek to serve God and people through community development, so I decided to study Geography in university. One evening in November 2012, some of us from the Christian youth fellowship attended a live recording of a worship band. While worshipping and singing, God showed me a vision of people of different nations worshipping God on layers of mountains. They were all dressed in different styles of clothing, worshipping in their native languages and gestures. God helped me understand that he invited not only me, but people of all nations to join in his mission.

Since that turning point, I began to explore how and where God would like me to join in his mission. Together with others interested in the student fellowship, we attended various mission organisations' camps, conferences, and talks. In my final year of university, I applied to go to Vietnam for 11 months as a missionary intern with an international mission organisation. That immersive experience showed me the power of stories and storytelling - Vietnamese Christians would learn Bible stories from the missionaries, and tell them to their friends and family, who would tell others, who would then tell others ... and indigenous churches sprung up.

In order to receive more training and education about missions, my mentor and field director recommended studying at All Nations Christian College in the UK. While studying there, I asked God to continue to show me where to serve afterwards. I prayed that if he did not show me a place clearly then I would return to Vietnam. However, when Mads and I met at that college during our studies, he had already signed a contract with BDM (Brødremenighedens Danske Mission), agreeing to go to Tanzania in 2018. After some prayer and confirmation through dreams, we decided to go to Tanzania together.

During our seven years in Tanzania, especially in challenging times, God's initial and continuous calling to us kept us persevering and sustained us. God's story, Bible stories, and people's stories have led us to where we are. We are grateful for the unfailing support from our families and churches, who respond to God's calling to mission wherever they are.

Sr Janice Leung Jacobsen
Rukwa Province in Tanzania

Growing up in Hong Kong, I had always shared a bedroom with my sister even though there was an empty room in my parents' flat. Many cross-cultural missionaries and their families from different parts of the world would stay in that room. As Hong Kong is at the crossroads of East and West, and since my parents have been working in an international mission organisation, many missionaries stopped by for home assignment and conferences. Therefore, as a young child, I got to hear stories about what God was doing around the world.

These stories came alive when my family and church went to visit missionaries in various countries where Christianity and mission were restricted by the governments, and where there were no 'official' churches. I remember feeling impressed that the missionaries from different countries could serve together and each other despite the cultural differences (and was shocked by the impossibly spicy food). The missionaries worked patiently in their professions and shared their faith with those who asked them. Moreover, they prayed faithfully for the unreached. Little did I know how their stories would go on to shape my life.

Later, together with a teenage youth group from my church, I had the opportunity to visit one of those towns again as a volunteer. We spent four summers there, doing tasks that the missionaries gave us, held a summer camp for teenagers from the area, and fell in love with the spicy food. One of the most memorable experiences was when some of us were about to pay a visit to a missionary's friend, who was paralysed and bed bound. As a gift, we bought him some food and randomly drew some paintings for him without coordinating with each other. However, when the three of us presented those paintings to the man, somehow, they coherently illustrated stories from creation to New Creation! After hearing the stories, the man decided to give his life to Christ. It was clearly not by our doing, but God's mighty work.

Showcasing Moravian



Sharon Walker, John Cooper and Demi Dallas (Cliftonville)

'How many times have you been asked what is a Moravian? Well, my record is 41 times in one day. The Balmoral agricultural show and exhibition takes place over four days every May. It's the biggest show in the Island of Ireland, bigger than the Dublin Show and on par with the Highland, Welsh and Yorkshire

stands, banks, charity's, political parties and other Church denominations. Each of the congregations take turns to staff the stand answering such questions as: what is a Moravian? How does the prayer watch work? Do we accept females as ministers? This was done whilst giving out information leaflets on both our

show. The Irish District have for the last three years taken a stand in the exhibition hall along with 115 other exhibitors from craft stands, clothing

history and how alive we are today. With free sweets and oranges to give away the stand was busy all four days. Will we get any new members, who knows? But that isn't the point. With an estimate of 142,000 visitors (from figures of the sponsor Nat West) over the four days, if only one percent (and its more) takes a leaflet or see the word 'Moravian' then that's four times more people than our total membership in Northern Ireland who no longer need to ask what a Moravian is and know that the district is alive.

Br Mark Kernohan
Irish District Chair

Fulneck, Yorkshire

News from the Fulneck Congregation is overshadowed by the announcement of Fulneck School's closure in July. The decision ends nearly three centuries of Moravian education in our Settlement. The rhythm of School has been a backdrop to life here - the sound of the bell announcing the start and end of lessons; laughter and conversation as pupils walked along the north terrace moving from one class to another. High days and holidays. And, come September, it will be no more. The future holds an unwelcome quietness.

Whilst these are sad times, particularly for parents, pupils and staff, the outpouring of genuine grief and loss expressed by so many former pupils speaks volumes about the positive impact Fulneck School had on so many people. I guess we must take some comfort from that. Fulneck School's annual reunion for former pupils in June attracted over 300. It will conclude with a valedictory thanksgiving service in Church led by former principal of the School, Trevor Kernohan.

Turning the diary pages back to the start of 2025, heavy snow forced the cancellation of our January Lovefeast and the following week's morning service. The bonus was seeing Fulneck at its wintertime best - under a blanket of snow and thick ice, the buildings and valley illuminated by several days of bright sunshine and cloudless blue skies.

Our congregation is still without a minister. However, our very able church committee continue to find us a varied and interesting supply of preachers. So far this year they've included: Sisters Gloria Hanley, Sarah Groves and Diane Thornton; on the Brethren's side: Brothers Bob Hopcroft, Kenneth Evans, David Howarth, Trevor Auty, Trevor Kernohan and Stephen Gledhill.

Congregation members travelled to Lower Wyke for District Lovefeast and to Wellhouse for a Palm Sunday service and Maundy Thursday Communion. More locally we attended the 'World Day of Prayer' service at Pudsey Baptists and joined the Churches Together 'Walk of Witness' through Pudsey town centre on Good Friday.

Our Easter Sunday services and breakfast were also well supported with several former School pupils with strong Fulneck family connections travelling quite some distance to join us at 7am! Alongside our regular routine of worship, Holy Habits meetings led by Sr Gloria Hanley were held following services. Weekly bible study also resumed, led by Br Trevor Auty.

Fulneck is a local hub of artistic activity. It's home to a pottery and a craft centre. Our congregation has its own craft group who meet regularly. In February our Drama Group's winter production was a well-received play, 'Home before Dark' by



© Sr Christine Robbins

Coronation Street scriptwriter, Jimmie Chinn. In May they brought the 'Queen of Crime', Agatha Christie, to Fulneck with a production of 'The Stranger'. Musically, we welcomed Leeds Baroque for a celebratory concert. A four-piece ensemble including world renowned trumpeter, Chrispian Steele Perkins performed to an appreciative audience. If you've watched 'The Antiques Roadshow', Steele-Perkins plays the theme tune's trumpet.

The next event on the calendar was our annual Sister's Breakfast in May. And, as these notes are being written, we're on the eve of Ascension Day.

Fulneck Museum opened for the summer in April. This year there's a display reflecting the sporting life and achievements of the record-breaking cricketer, Sir Leonard Hutton, who was born and brought up in Fulneck. Archive material has been sourced from Yorkshire County Cricket Club.



© Sr Christine Robbins

And finally, we have two weddings to report. In April Paul Woolford, brother of our most recent Minister, James Woolford, married Louise Robinson. Then, in May it was an equal pleasure to host the wedding of Jenna Williams to William France. Will is the grandson of former Fulneck minister, the late Wilfred Mortimore.

Br Dave Robbins

Bedford Queens Park, Bedfordshire

Br Frank Moss who worshipped at the Moravian Church Queens Park from 1966 to 2006, passed away peacefully. He served as organist, Sunday school teacher, youth leader, cleaner, organiser of church activities, lay preacher and caretaker. Frank was also

a lollipop man for 21 years from 1995 to 2016, and he was involved in many churches and organised fundraising for them. He had a shop, a bakery in Queens Park and delivered to his customers - his bread and cakes were legendary. Frank will be missed by many people who knew him. He was 93 years old and happily married for 62 years. Born 16th of March 1932 and died 8th of April 2025.

Br Eric Moore

Fetter Lane, London

Fetter Lane wins an award!

The Chelsea Flower Show at the Royal Hospital grounds in the middle of May has been attracting thousands of visitors every year since Victorian days. For the past 20 years an accompanying celebration has taken place on the streets of Chelsea called Chelsea in Bloom. All sorts of establishments - shops, salons, restaurants, hardware stores and in 2025 even a church (us) - join in this side-festival by decorating their frontages in line with the theme, which this year was 'Flowers in Fashion'. Perfect for Chelsea.

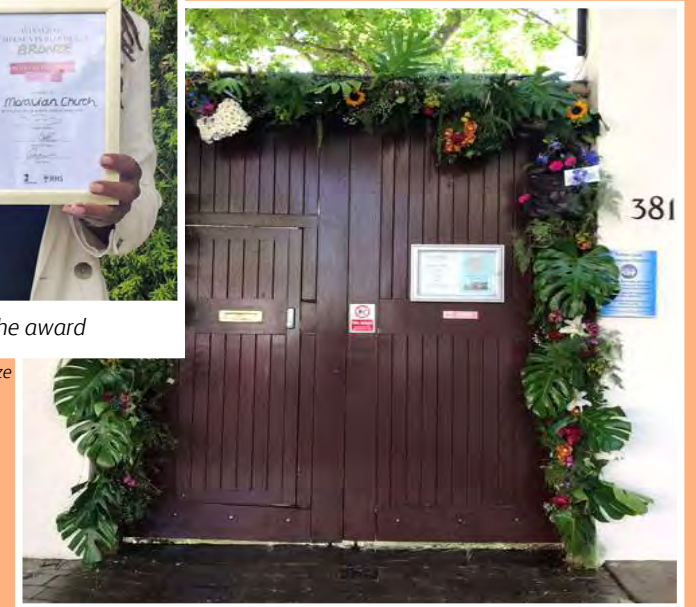
Fortunately for us, one of our newest sisters, Jennifer Dunrod, happens to be a floral arranger/artist and relished the challenge. Here's how she described our display to the festival organisers. 'The handbag is carried by women of all ages to church, each woman expressing fashion in her individual style and the handbag is mentioned many times in the Bible and in church life; the offering pouch handle, the Shepherd's purse, David places the stones in the pouch of his bag before approaching Goliath. Handbags carry symbolic weight, representing more than just material possessions.'

The rules of the competition stipulated that all materials used had to be natural, so no Styrofoam or fake flowers. The concept was Jennifer's with many of the congregation helping out with forming the chicken wire shapes, keeping the display wet during



Jennifer with the award

© Sr Cynthia Dize



has taken part, adding a spiritual element to the busy Chelsea scene and creating neighbourly connections with local businesses and residents.

Sr Cynthia Dize

Royton (formerly Westwood and Salem), Greater Manchester

Our last update was February when we shared what we had been up to over the Christmas period, but we have been up to so much more since.

On Friday 7th March, the World Day of Prayer Service for the local area was held at our Church. The service had been prepared by a group of ecumenical women from the Cook Islands and was well-attended by many people from other local churches. The theme was taken from Psalm 139, v 14: *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made*. The theme song, 'Wonderfully Made', written by Ruru Maeva, recurred throughout the service, which was full of joy and colour. Thanks to Sr Lesley Benedek for organising and leading this service.

On Sunday 6 April, we again joined our neighbours at Trinity Methodists for worship. We also shared in joint worship on a number of other occasions including Maundy Thursday with Fairfield and Dukinfield for a District Service of Holy Communion at Fairfield, led by Br Gubi. Sr Benedek led the Good Friday Service at Royton, and the congregation then joined other local churches for a service in Royton Precinct. Br Gubi led a joyful service on Easter Sunday, with Holy Communion.

Duncan Wood has updated and republished the history of Westwood Moravian Church, written by Br Ivor Packer when he

was our minister in the 1960s. It is available from Amazon at a cost of £3.25, and any profits will go to The Moravian Church Royton so please purchase.

Some of the members of MWA attended the MWA day on Saturday 3rd May. It was a fantastic day in which we got to share in worship and workshops with women across the province. The day was also a celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Moravian Women's Association, originally the Moravian Women's Auxiliary. Congregations brought cake to celebrate this and what a selection we had.

We continued MWA celebrations by having our sister's breakfast on the Sunday. Our guest speaker this year was one of our own, Annie Geary. She shared memories of MWA that ranged from her first experience of it, to MWA's existence after the war. It was interesting and enjoyed by all.

We also had a delayed celebration of VE day on Saturday 10th May. Songs were sung from the war period, poems and stories shared and of course we shared in a meal together. A quiz was carried out providing more information about facts of that time. I found it interesting how life was different back then and how going through similar experiences bonds people in deep and meaningful ways.

Other social events will be occurring throughout the year, and we will update you in due course.

Sr Hannah Coope and Sr Gail Holden

Cliftonville, Belfast

A time has passed since our last update in the *Messenger*. I am very in awe and sad to be following in Sr Edna Coopers footsteps as correspondent for the *Messenger*.

Over the last year we have lost two stalwart members of Cliftonville, Sr Edna Cooper and Sr Sonya Anastasi (Pritchard) both lifelong members of the Moravian Church.

Last summer the start of collecting our annual shoebox appeal began, led by Srs Vyvienne Dickson and Lorraine Gill. Hand crocheted blankets, knitted jumpers and cardigans etc were given generously by members to fill boxes along with warm hats, gloves, socks and of course toys, toiletries and sweets suitable for a range of ages from babies to teenagers. This year a grand total of 116 shoeboxes were sent to eastern European countries including Ukraine via the Blythewood charity. A total of 1,110 were sent from Northern Ireland.

Our harvest service in October was well attended - we now bring foods requested by the Trussell Trust and boxes are filled and taken to the food bank. Preparations for Advent included a blue Christmas service initiated by Br Jared where there was personal space to sit, quietly pray and contemplate, and light candles as an escape from busy life. The Christingle service was well-attended with a colourful cartoon of 'The Christmas Story' on the large screen that captured the children's interest and imagination. Christmas carols were sung with the lights off when the lit Christingles were brought in. Then old and young collected their Christingles, walking round the church whilst



© Br John Cooper

voices of 'Silent Night' filled the air bringing past and precious memories of our loved ones to mind but it was a happy and joyful reunion with families and friends.

After new year we enjoyed a leisurely lunch at the Cliftonville golf club after church service - the food never disappoints and around 25 members and friends attended. Another outing in February was to watch the Belfast Giants ice hockey at the Ice Bowl. It was a new experience for many and again well attended and The Belfast Giants won.

During Holy week we met every night for the Passion week readings and on Maundy Thursday celebrated Passover communion with soup and bread provided by Br Jared. On Easter Saturday morning we started arranging the flowered cross with yellow roses edged with greenery, so it then stands tall in church on Easter Sunday for 'Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed.' After church the cross is placed outside, and it has become a huge community event. People ask when is the cross going up and take time to walk down or drive down to see it.

Sr Winnie Boreland

Fairfield, Greater Manchester

On the 23rd of April two of our sisters welcomed a group of 30 children from a local school. After the visit the teacher wrote a short article for their school magazine, the article is as follows:



© Sr Denise Lee

'Religious Studies: Visit to the Fairfield Moravian Settlement

A group of Year 7 students visited the Fairfield Moravian Settlement to find out more about the culture, beliefs and lifestyles of these early settlers in

Droylsden. As part of the visit, the students had a tour of the settlement and learnt about the history of the Moravian Church. After the tour of the settlement, the students visited the College and the museum where they looked at the artefacts on display and found out how the early settlers used to dress. Thank you to Sister Barbara and Sister Carol for welcoming us to the Moravian Settlement and for such an interesting, informative and enjoyable day.'

If you are interested in visiting us here at Fairfield, you can book tours or attend our Heritage Day on 14th September 2025.

On the Bank holiday Monday, 5th May, Fairfield organised a VE day celebration for all members and residents of the Square. A total of 60 members and residents got together in the college at 1pm. Drinks were provided but everyone brought their own packed lunch, and some brought food for sharing. Br Glyn Jones



© Sr Denise Lee

provided music from the 1940s up to the present day to keep the party going in full swing, and everyone had a fun filled afternoon.

The following Thursday 8th May people gathered in the Square to join the Nation in singing 'I vow to thee my country', they then joined the scout group for hot drinks and to watch the lighting of the Beacon the scouts had made specially to commemorate VE day.



© Sr Denise Lee

On Sunday 18th May sisters were invited to get together to enjoy a sisters' celebration of afternoon tea in the college. A total of 31 sisters and friends enjoyed a full afternoon tea of sandwiches, cakes and scones. Four of the brethren kindly cleared and washed up so the ladies could enjoy the time of fellowship. Many thanks on behalf of all those

attending go to the sisters who work so hard beforehand to provide such a delicious spread.

Sr Margery Sutcliffe

NOTICES

Friends of the Archive Day

You are invited to join the Friends of the Archive Day which will be held between 2pm-4pm on Saturday 19th July 2025.

We would like to celebrate and take this opportunity to thank everyone for their generous support over the years of the Provincial Archives here at Moravian Church House in London and also invite others who would like to learn more or have interest about the work here.

There will be a talk about the work of the Keevills who helped to establish the Sikonge Hospital in Tanzania in 1923 and will also showcase some of the wonderful treasures within our archives. Refreshments will be provided.



Please let the archivist, Lorraine Parsons, know if you would like to join us on this day or have any queries by contacting her at archive@moravian.org.uk.

We look forward to seeing you here at Church House.

Serving the Church

Serving the Church and serving Jesus Christ is a joy and makes this world a place worth living. Following Jesus is a blessing that we Christians have been given. Each path that God leads us on gives us new life, insight, and wisdom. God calls all of us in different ways at different stages in our lives. If you have reached a point in your life when you are wondering, 'what is the next step?' or 'Where is God leading me now?' If you find your heart being stirred as you attend worship, finding yourself restless sitting in the pews, or at home at your computer, and you feel something stirring you to go deeper into the work of the church, then it is probably time to start thinking through these thoughts with someone.

Exploring your call is an important task and should be done with others as part of a faithful conversation.

If you are interested, please contact joachim.kreusel@moravian.org.uk We look forward to speaking with you and pray that you are willing and able to listen to God's voice calling you on in your Christian walk as you seek to follow more and more deeply Jesus.

From the Church Service Committee

Sr Lorraine Shorten (Chair of CSC and minister for Bath Weston and Bath Coronation Avenue congregations)

FROM CHURCH HOUSE

Provincial Diary for July

3	British Mission Board (BMB)	Online
8-9	Provincial Board	Church House
16	Finance and Property Committee	Online
19	Friends of the Archive Day	Church House
28 Jul-1 Aug	Summer Camp	Bell Heath Centre
31	Church Service Committee Working Group	Online

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

25th May 2025	Joe Coulthard Bowie	Ockbrook
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DATES TO REMEMBER

6	Martyrdom of Jan Hus at Constance in 1415
7	Muharram/Islamic New Year - Muslim
13	Sea Sunday (www.seasundayhero.org)
	Disability Awareness Day (www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk)
17	World Day for International Justice
30	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons



LETTER TO THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Dear Editors,

Please could you inform parents requiring financial help with their children's Summer Camp costs that the Carol Holdsworth Trust trustees agreed to a change in procedure which may assist.

Please now apply to Sr Claire Maxwell (claire.maxwell@moravian.org.uk) or Br James Woolford (james.woolford@moravian.org.uk) as they now have some funding.

Yours, Br Alan Holdsworth

A series looking at favourite memorials

The Edward Johnston Memorial Farringdon Station

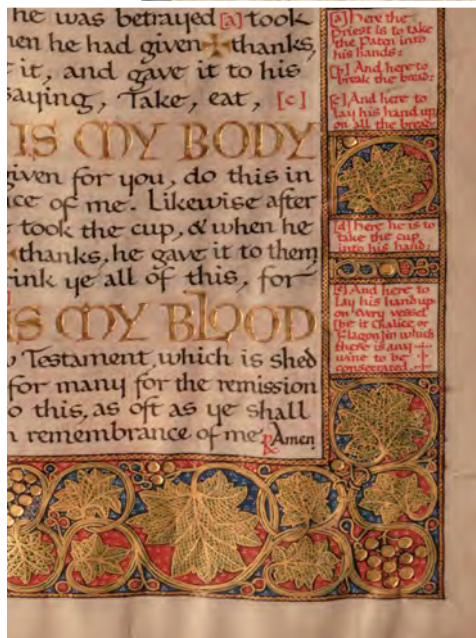


© JFL

Being a trustee of the Mrs E M Bates Trust brings me twice a year to Farringdon Station in London, en route to the trustees' meeting in nearby Smithfield. For me, however, Farringdon Station is a special place for another reason. It is home to the memorial of the great Edward Johnston (1872-1944).

I will not be surprised if you do not know who Edward Johnston was, or why he is memorialised in a station. I can however guarantee that you will all know his greatest creative work. Every time you see a London Underground station name or see London Transport's bullseye logo you are looking at the work of the creative genius Edward Johnston. In 1913 London Underground were looking for someone to design a typeface and redesign their logo and they turned to Johnston. The resulting typeface and logo, with a little tweaking, is still in use today - looking as modern and clean as it did over a hundred years ago.

By the time Queen Victoria had come to the throne the art of creating manuscripts, such as those produced in the Abbeys and Cathedrals of medieval England, had been lost. William Morris attempted to rediscover the art, but his efforts were not successful. It was a generation later when Edward Johnston studied the ancient manuscripts in the British Museum, and particularly the 10th century Ramsey Psalter, that modern calligraphy was born. Pick up any good book on calligraphy and check the index and Johnston will be cited as 'the father of modern calligraphy'.



© HTH



© Graham Seaton

My introduction to Edward Johnston came when I arrived at my local church for a meeting that had been cancelled. The vicar, seeing I had wasted my journey, took pity, opened the safe and said, 'Would you like to see our Missal?' I was not even sure what a Missal was until the vicar pulled out the most magnificent service book I had ever seen. 160 pages of handwritten and illuminated vellum - rich in golds, reds and blues. This priceless tour de force had been created by Johnston in 1902, right at the start of his career. It was commissioned by Doctor C B Gabb in memory of his wife, Ada, and given to the church. Apart from being lent to the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1946, it has not left the keeping of the church.

My investigation into the Johnston Missal has taken me to the British Library - where I was given special permission to view the Ramsey Psalter; to the V&A - where I was shown a copy of the 1946 exhibition catalogue; to the University of Creative Arts Farnham - where I was shown Johnston's papers, including draft and spoilt pages of the Missal. As a result, on my visits, I discovered that Johnston created very few books in his career. Our Missal is a very rare thing.

The memorial at Farringdon is in the form of giant wooden printing blocks in Johnston's famous typeface. As modern as it looks, the typeface carries some echoes of a calligrapher making marks with his quill pen - just look at the lowercase i's and j's with their diamond shaped dots. Johnston's influence on great graphic design is all around us. His name should be better known!

Graham Seaton
Trustee, Mrs E M Bates Trust

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