



OCTOBER 2026

Introducing a new member to the Provincial Board

Sr Carmen Warner was elected at this year's Provincial Synod.

I was born on the island of St Kitts and was christened at Estridge Moravian Church. I was later confirmed and became a member of the Zion Moravian Church.

In 1953 Rev Peter Gubi and his wife Mrs Maud Gubi, were serving at Zion. Mrs Gubi holds a special place in my memory as she became the first woman to conduct services at Zion.

I attended the Girls High School in St Kitts where Mrs Maud Gubi taught Religious Education. My favourite subjects were Geography and English Literature. During my time at Zion, I was very active in the life of the Church, and also a member of the Girls Brigade, served as a Church Steward and sang in both the Junior and Senior Choirs.

I came to the United Kingdom to pursue a career in nursing. I trained at the Orsett Hospital entering the State Enrolled Nurse (SEN) programme. Through determination and a desire to continue learning I progressed to the State Registered Nurse (SRN) programme at Frimley Park Hospital, an Operating Theatre Course at Whipps Cross Hospital and my Midwifery training at the London Hospital now The Royal London Hospital.

It was also during the time as a Midwife that I undertook my first management role. I was given the opportunity to establish and develop a Teenage Antenatal Clinic which was the first of its kind in the United Kingdom.

This was a significant responsibility. It required vision, organisation, compassion and the ability to work with others. It also opened my eyes to the importance of looking beyond the immediate professional role and considering the wider circumstances affecting people's lives.

My professional journey continued through training, counselling and multi-disciplinary courses at Canterbury College now Kent University. I qualified in Group and Interpersonal Skills, and I studied Psychology at the University of London and trained professionals from many fields, including nursing, teaching disabilities and family planning. I also became a Qualified Holistic Therapeutic Masseuse and ran a small private practice.

Throughout my years in Britain, my connection with the Moravian Church remained important. I worshipped at Harold Road Moravian Church, where my son Richard was christened. Later the Church moved from Harold Road to the Hibiscus Community Centre and now it is at St Pauls Church in Stratford.

Growing up on the Island of St Kitts, I was familiar with Synod from an early age. It was held every two years and moved from Island to Island. Synod was always a significant occasion when it came to St Kitts. Synodals were often welcomed into local homes with businesses providing groceries and church members and the wider community preparing meals. There was a sense of peace and anticipation across the island whenever Synod was in progress.

Attending Synod at Swanwick was a very different experience and my first opportunity to participate in it. I was particularly struck by the pre-Synodal meeting, where the workings and responsibilities of Synod were explained I remembered thinking, 'This is a big deal' and soon realised how important the work truly was. I especially enjoyed the daily opening and closing prayers and singing the canticle which took me back to my days at Zion.

Although I had considered applying for a place on the Provincial Board it was not until during Synod that I finally made the decision. I was encouraged to offer my management skills, knowing they could contribute to the work of the Church.

I remain deeply committed to the Moravian Church. My goal is to work alongside congregations to help the Church grow, by listening, supporting and finding practical solutions to move on.

Sr Carmen Warner
Provincial Board



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**Church House in London
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Church House in London - End of an Era



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Moravian Church House, 5-7 Muswell Hill, closed in London on 28th August 2026 after 69 years of active service as the headquarters of the Moravian Church in Great Britain and Ireland. To mark the occasion a short service and reception was held for the present and previous staff, volunteers and Provincial Board members in the afternoon of the 28th.

The original Church House was in Fetter Lane, but this had been bombed during the Second World War and the Church was not permitted to rebuild on this site. So, work began finding a new premises for Moravian Church House. The new premises had to be convenient to the homes of Provincial Board members and give easy access to the City for train and planes. A number of premises were inspected, some of which were unsuitable for adaptation while others were unobtainable owing to lack of planning permission.



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However, in April 1954 two houses, numbers five and seven Muswell Hill, came on the market and planning permission was obtained from the then Hornsey Borough Council for their adaptation and use as offices. Vacant possession of the houses was obtained in 1955 and plans for the renovation and adaptation of the houses were drawn up by the quincentenary site and planning committee. Work began towards the end of 1956 and was completed so far as the office accommodation was concerned in April 1957. The Memorial Chapel and library were completed in the autumn of the same year.

The houses date from the second half of the 19th century and a very generous gift from the American Province North met the cost of refurbishing the Boardroom and most of the rest of the premises. The Mission Flat which occupies the top floor of the two houses was furnished by contributions from the Moravian Women's Auxiliary (now Association).

This house has seen so much over its 69 years of service to the Church: the offices of Provincial Board members; reception receiving guests, typing and sending out mail, supplies from

the Bookroom, including the Watchwords and Advent Stars. Countless meetings of the Provincial Board and of Standing Committees of Synod; interviews with prospective candidates for the ministry; letters and reports prepared; accounts kept and audited and investments prepared; services and prayers in the chapel; archives have been kept, catalogued, curated and visited by countless researchers. The garden, a haven for wildlife, gave solace to many of those who have worked and prayed at Church House and hosted parties and Quiet Days. The Mission Flat received missionaries on furlough, visitors from other Provinces, those in London on Provincial business and also Church families grabbing a few days holiday in London. So many memories and so much to be grateful for!

But a house or an office is just an empty shell without the staff to clean it, provide hospitality, service the Bookroom, care for the archives, do the accounts, run the office and so much more. I have been coming to Church House since I was 21, and doubtless others have even longer memories. During my time there, in the accounts, David Quaitie with Maureen Hutchings and then Lindsey Newens (Administrator) with Willie Esterhuizen and Peter Hammond, and lastly Graeme Salt and his beloved dog Devon; in the office Vera Coates, Margaret Forkhan, and lastly Gladys Korsah and Sharon Salt; and in the archives Janet Halton, Paul Blewitt and now Lorraine Parsons. Lastly but by no means least Peter and Margaret White followed by Alan and Carol Holdsworth who were caretakers and much more at Church House.

At the closing service Sr Roberta Hoey paid an affectionate and humorous tribute to the current Church House staff who are not moving to Fulneck: Sr Gladys Korsah our receptionist and book room manager who has been at Church House for 31 years, Br Graeme Salt our finance officer who has been there for 16 years, and his wife Sharon who has given support and holiday cover. Tribute was, of course, also paid to Sr Lindsey Newens our Administrator who sadly died last year. Sr Lorraine Parsons, our archivist, is moving to Yorkshire in due course to continue working with the archives there. It was a sad farewell, but we are so thankful for all that the staff at Church House having given over the past 69 years.

It was lovely to meet together for the afternoon with the current Provincial Board and members of past boards. Memories were shared and family news updates given. Many of us looked just a bit older but our memories of the place we loved and the staff that we worked with so fresh. It is right to give God the glory and thanksgiving for the past and to place our trust in God for the future. I am so pleased we were able to do it together with love on that Friday afternoon.

Sr Sarah Groves
Editorial Team



Homily for the Closing Service



© Sr Roberta Hoey

Given by Br Michael Newman at Church House, Muswell Hill - based on Joshua 3: 1-5, 14-17

'You have not passed this way before'. Those words from Joshua resonate with us today. They were first spoken to a people standing at the edge of the Jordan, between one chapter and another. Behind them lay years of wilderness journeying; before them lay a land promised by God but not yet known by them. They were not simply moving to a new place - they were entering a new reality. Joshua's instruction was practical and spiritual - follow the ark and keep your eyes on the presence of God.

Today we gather at a crossing of our own. This is the last day of Church House here at 5 to 7 Muswell Hill. For many years this place has been more than simply an address. It has been a centre of administration, conversation, planning, decision-making, hospitality and prayerful service. Much of what has happened here has not been visible to the wider church, but it has mattered. In countless ordinary tasks, the life of the Province has been served.

Today is a day of thanksgiving. We give thanks for current and past members of staff - for diligence, patience, humour, loyalty, professional skill and personal kindness. We give thanks for all who have attended to the countless details without which the Church's wider ministry would not have functioned.

We also give thanks for current and former members of the Provincial Board, recognising the responsibility carried in decisions about buildings, finance, ministry and structures. Such decisions are never merely technical - they touch people's lives, memories and hopes.

But today is also a day of sadness. To close a building is never simply to lock a door, because buildings hold memories. For some, Church House has been a familiar destination, for others a workplace and a community. Because

this move is accompanied by the departure of some staff, today also marks the end of roles, routines and years of service.

The people in our Bible reading did not cross the Jordan easily. They had to leave the place where they had camped and trust a way not yet visible. The river stood between them and the future, and it was bursting its banks. God did not wait until the crossing looked manageable. The people were called to move when the obstacle was real and courage was needed.

That image speaks to us now. The move from Muswell Hill to Fulneck offers new possibilities, but it also involves disruption, cost and loss. We should not rush too quickly to say, 'Everything will be fine', if that leaves no space for grief. Christian hope is not the refusal to acknowledge pain, but the confidence that God is present in it, and that God's purposes will continue beyond what is ending.

At the heart of the reading was the ark of the covenant. The people were not told to follow Joshua's confidence, their own enthusiasm, or a carefully drawn map. They were told to follow the sign of God's presence. The ark went ahead, and the people followed. That is something the Church needs to remember at moments of change. Buildings matter, but they are not eternal. Structures matter, but they are not our salvation.

There was another important detail in the reading. The priests stepped into the water before the crossing became clear. Faith often

calls us to do just that. We want certainty before we move, but God often gives enough light only for the next step. On this last day in Muswell Hill, we do not know exactly how the relocation to Fulneck will shape the Province. But we know that the God who has been faithful here will not cease to be faithful there.

That is the most important lesson of this reading and one we need to carry from this place. The address of Church House will change. The way things work will change. Some of us will move into a new chapter of life. But the calling remains - to serve Christ, to build up the Church, to bear witness to the gospel, and to do so with humility, courage and love.

So today we remember faithful service, difficult meetings, shared laughter, pastoral conversations, and decisions made with the best wisdom available at the time. We ask for God's blessing on those who are leaving us, and on those whose work will continue in Fulneck.

'You have not passed this way before'. It is true that we have not. But the

Israelites discovered that the unknown way was not an abandoned way. God had gone before them, and had made a path where no path seemed possible. As we close this chapter in Muswell Hill and look towards Fulneck, may we do so with thanksgiving for the past, courage for the journey ahead, and faith in the living God who still leads his people onward.

Amen.



Church House staff: Graeme Salt, Gladys Korsah, Lorraine Parsons and Sharon Salt

© Sr Roberta Hoey

Current Trends in Moravian Theology and Mission: The legacy of 13th August 1727

On 13th August 1727, during a Holy Communion service at the Lutheran parish church in Berthelsdorf, the members of the Herrnhut community experienced a profound moment of spiritual renewal and reconciliation. It was like an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which manifested itself in that, as one person observed, 'we learned to love one another'. For this reason, the day is considered the spiritual 'birthday' of the renewed Unitas Fratrum (Moravian Church). It also has been called the 'Moravian Pentecost', although there were no signs of ecstatic or extraordinary spiritual manifestations. With this new sense of unity and purpose, the Herrnhut community was transformed into a movement for mission and evangelism of international scope. 13th August 1727 is therefore a reference point within the Renewed Moravian Church. The year 2027 marks the 300th anniversary of that event. Dr Livingstone Thompson and Professor Peter Gubi, along with several scholars in the Worldwide Moravian Church, are currently engaged in bringing together a book entitled: 'Current Trends in Moravian Theology and Mission: The legacy of 13th August, 1727'. The book, which will be published by Chester University Press, will be released to mark the 300th anniversary and aims to celebrate that event. It is also to reflect on the legacy of the Renewed Moravian Church in today's Church, and to encourage thinking across the Unitas Fratrum on how the past may help determine a future direction for the Worldwide Moravian Church.

To design a cover for the book, we launched an art competition to create an image that captures this event of 13th August 1727. Artists from across the Unity were invited to participate and to submit entries for this competition. The image, adjudicated to be the winning image by the Editors, Chapter Contributors, and by Dr Sarah Griffiths of Chester University Press, will feature on the cover of the book and the winner was awarded £500. Three 'Highly Commended' awards of £100 were given for other submissions that were selected for inclusion in the book. Altogether, we received twelve entries from across the Unity. All the entries, including those listed below, being of high standard, will be included in the book.

The winning entry was by Sr Anita Purnell. About the picture, Anita states that: the symbolism in the illustration uses a circle of men and women with arms intertwined to represent inclusivity

amongst the brethren and sisters; and the clothing, although simplified, is representative of the traditional Moravian dress of the period. The dove in the centre is symbolic of the Holy Spirit descending on the congregation and filling them with the desire to live in peace and unity with each other whilst being filled with a sense of love and spiritual renewal. She chose to represent the illustration in monochromatic tones to emphasise the simplicity of the Moravian ethos with regard to decoration and ornamentation both in dress and within the church itself. The next three pictures were 'Highly Commended' by the adjudicators. The



Winning entry by Sr Anita Purnell
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Pentecost, the fulfilment by the Spirit is tumultuous (strong wind, fiery flames, etc.). In the event at Herrnhut, however, I sense a steady infilling - a measured, calm power and wisdom that flows continuously

wherever it is sought, and where action is taken to receive it.

The third picture in the Highly Commended category is by Br Jirí Kucera. About it, Jirí says: this is an oil painting on cardboard. I have created an original hand-painted oil painting on cardboard, dimensions: 40 cm x 30 cm. I approached



Highly Commended entry by Sr Patsy Holdsworth



Highly Commended entry by Sr Eva Tvrdková



Highly Commended entry by Br Jirí Kucera

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first is by Sr Patsy Holdsworth. About it, Patsy states: the picture is of Berthelsdorf Church where the Moravian Pentecost took place. There are a Lovefeast cup and bun in remembrance of that day that Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf sent down food as the two congregations that had fallen out were now united again, and were singing and praying, and did not want to leave the Church. In the sky, is a dove representing the Holy Spirit that entered the hearts of all the Brothers and Sisters that day. It is in the style of a stained-glass window, with beams of God's light coming across the whole image. Finally, in the top left-hand corner, instead of the sun, there is an Advent Star - a nod to the Moravian tradition of hanging an Advent Star in our homes and churches throughout Advent.

The second picture in the Highly Commended category is by Sr Eva Tvrdková. About her picture, Eva states: my vision was as follows - during catholic

the theme of the anniversary of the renewal of the Church by placing the original church in Berthelsdorf, where the main historical event took place in the 18th century, at the centre of the composition. Around it, I arranged painted hands diagonally as symbols of brotherhood, unity, fellowship, and communal prayer. They also represent the raised hands of those in prayer and the open hands of God reaching down from heaven. The painting also alludes to Albrecht Dürer's 'Praying Hands' or Michelangelo's 'The Creation of Adam'.

We thank the artists for their contribution to this project, which we hope will be of interest and an inspiration to Moravians and others around the world. The standard of the scholarship contained in the book, is very high and will be quite accessible to readers.

Br Livingstone Thompson and Br Peter Gubi

James the brother of the Lord



I'm always a bit startled when I read Bible passages that mention Jesus's brothers and sisters. The Lord is so unique that it is hard to believe that he had any siblings at all. But the whole point of Jesus's life is that as well as being the ultimate revelation of God's love for us, he was fully human - and for many people this means having siblings!

I wonder what James, Joses, Jude and Simon made of their extraordinary brother? Jesus also had sisters, but we do not know how many or what they were called. Matthew 13:56 says 'all his sisters', which implies that there were more than two. As to their names, church tradition calls one as Mary and another as Salome - but the other sisters are now mere shadows.

One sibling we do know more about was James the brother of the Lord, often called James the Just because of his devotion to keeping the requirements of the Jewish Law. James, whom the Apostle Paul knew personally (Galatians 1:19) was probably the first leader of the Church of Jerusalem. Acts 12:17 and Galatians 1:19 imply that James led St Peter, who in turn became leader in Rome.

Tradition says that James was martyred: either in 62 AD by being stoned to death in the year 63 AD on the order of High Priest, Ananus ben Ananus, or in 69 AD after being thrown off the pinnacle of the Temple by the scribes and Pharisees and then clubbed to death for good measure. This latter sounds like a pious exaggeration to me.

Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, and some Protestants teach that James, along with others named in the New Testament as Jesus's brothers or sisters, were not the biological children of Mary, but were the Lord's cousins, or step-brothers from a previous marriage of Joseph's. *The Gospel of James*, an ancient book never fully accepted by the Church, says that any brothers or sisters were in fact stepsiblings.

However, some scholars argue that James truly was a son of both Mary and Joseph. They claim that the biological relationship of James to Jesus was deliberately obscured in the early church for a theological reason - namely, a growing emphasis on the holiness of virginity, with St Mary coming to be seen as 'ever-virgin'.

In the New Testament there is a *Letter of James*, which purports to be from the Lord's brother to Jewish people scattered around the Roman Empire. Many scholars think this letter was written by someone else (probably one of Luke's followers) who chose to write under James's name because, like James, he was a Jewish Christian who wanted to uphold that tradition. This letter contains a famous passage about salvation:

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled', without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works'. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God

is one; you do well. Even the demons believe - and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness' - and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. (James 2:14-26).

The Protestant Reformer Martin Luther, a former monk who was keen to throw off what he had come to see as absurd attempts to earn salvation in the Catholic Church, called James's letter 'an epistle of straw', i.e. worth very little. But over the following centuries, scholars have taken rather more nuanced approaches. One modern explanation by American Lutherans says that James also taught salvation by faith alone! Their argument is that Paul was dealing with one kind of error while James was dealing with a different error:

The error Paul was dealing with came from people who said that good works under the Old Testament law had to be added to faith to help earn God's favour. Paul countered this by pointing out that salvation was by faith alone apart from deeds of the law (Galatians 2:16; Romans 3:21-22). But Paul also taught that saving faith is not dead but alive, showing thanks to God in deeds of love: 'since in Christ Jesus it is not being circumcised or being uncircumcised that can effect anything - *only faith working through love*.' (Galatians 5:6).

James, on the other hand, was dealing with people who said that if they had faith, they didn't need to show love (James 2:14-17). He countered this by teaching that faith is alive and shows itself to be alive through deeds of love (James 2:18, 26).

James and Paul both teach that salvation is by faith alone, but that true faith always shows itself to be alive though good deeds motivated by love. These works of love express the thanks of believers to God for the gift of salvation by faith in Jesus.

What happened to St James? Tradition says that he was stoned near the Temple of Jerusalem and buried on the spot. We do not know exactly where this was. But his spiritual legacy lives on. He was not as poetic or charismatic as his brother Jesus, but I see him as a sort of patron saint of those who are willing to put in some hard practical work to improve the lives of their fellow human beings.

Br Duncan Wood





© Sr Sue Selby

Retirement of Rev Peter Madsen Gubi

Br Peter has spent the whole of his ordained ministry in the Lancashire District, and we have all benefitted from his patience, gentleness, generosity and sanctity of his services. The following are some memories from each of the congregations in the district.

Peter was called to serve the Dukinfield Congregation with effect from 1st November 2012 and in December of that year; we were blessed to host his ordination - the very first time ever that such an event was held at Dukinfield. In March 2015 we again hosted Peter's consecration as Presbyter.

Dukinfield - During Peter's time as our minister at Dukinfield, he oversaw many improvements to the fabric of our building, namely the removal of the pews to be replaced by movable chairs, the laying of a fitted carpet in the church space, and the installation of washable flooring both in the downstairs room and in the upstairs too. Replacement windows were steadily added, and we are happy to say that Peter's vision of our building continues to heap rewards with the various groups who benefit from these improvements. Solar panels have been installed on the church roof and the financial benefits of these are beginning to be felt. New external doors have been fitted around the whole of the building.

The burial ground on Old Road benefitted from metal fencing and a sign to show that this is a sacred space and should be treated as such.

Comedy has never been far away from Peter: like the way he 'set himself on fire' when burning waste in the church garden; or the time he nearly knocked himself out while moving the lawn mower out of the back of his car; the time he split his trousers while gardening and many more.

Royton - Br Gubi arrived as minister of the Royton Congregation on 1st August 2023. We had really missed having a minister, and so when Br Peter arrived, we were very grateful. Br Peter brought with him a sense of calm and stability which was much needed, but also organisation, spiritual leadership and challenge, not without a sometimes-wicked sense of humour! He attended our social events and could often be found helping out in the kitchen, washing up! It was a shock to all of us when he had to undergo open heart surgery in 2025 and we were looking forward to welcoming him back when he had fully recovered, but it was not to be, as he left us to concentrate on the needs of the Fairfield congregation. Although he was still officially on sick leave, he led his final service at Royton, with a challenging sermon, and the generosity of the gifts we were able to give him on leaving was a testament to the appreciation the congregation had for him, as was the number of members from Royton who attended his farewell service and lunch at Fairfield. It was no surprise that when we went to say goodbye afterwards, we found him in the kitchen, washing up!

Fairfield - At Fairfield immediately we saw Br Peter was a minister who would get stuck in: whether washing up at various events, cutting the grass in the burial ground or sweeping up the never-ending leaves on the terrace. His generosity was much appreciated as was his greeting members as they arrived at church. His services were always well prepared and thought provoking plus the gift of the television screen added another dimension to them. He got the youth club going again and committed to it by being a leader. Peter also started a prayer group on Thursday mornings before Thursday coffee. I know in over the past twelve months Br Peter has felt he has not been 'at his best' but that is not reflected in how people at Fairfield viewed it.

To sum up I think most of all that all three congregations would more than agree on, and thank him for, was his pastoral care. His visiting people in hospital where parking problems, particularly at the Royal Oldham Hospital, were enough for anyone to give up. Patients always found his reassurance and faithfulness calming as did those who were bereaved or where he just popped round for a chat.

Br Peter has become a dear friend to many in our congregations. This was seen at the service and meal afterwards at Fairfield on 22nd August by the number who attended. For his future, in his retirement from the ministry, we pray for good health and contentment for him and that he will still visit us when he can. All the best Br Peter.

Srs Janet Warr, Sue Selby and Gail Holden

Letter to Editorial Team

I have bought 28 copies of Prof Ingrid Robeyns' epic work, 'Limitarianism' and given some to this Province's thinkers to read and be inspired as I am.

For those of us who at least once a week pray to our Creator for the relief for those of us suffering from the greed of others then the Professor's decade long research is telling we readers that something is let say is unfair in our 21st century wealth creation and distribution and that all our prayer and action doesn't seem to produce the conclusion we who care require.

When the very wealthy in their respective countries become part of a global financial industry they become some of the wealthiest in the world. In her book the Professor says that the small number of excessively wealthy individuals may constitute a real danger to, amongst other things, democracy. For example, she tells Limitarianism's readers that in the last five years each of the UK's top ten billionaires have had

at least £10 billion: £10,000,000,000. That is ten thousand million. The USA billionaires have had substantially more.

Prof Robeyns has convinced her readers that a substantial, staggering amount of that is languishing by its owners doing nothing useful except 'earning' interest. She says just think of the good that some of that finance could be doing. Some extremely wealthy individuals, Bill Gates for instance, have decided to give their wealth away. Gary Lineker is reported to be one of the hundred millionaires asking our government to take more tax from them.

I urge all thinking recipients of Limitarianism to pass on their copies to those they believe are this Province's thinkers. P.S. I will buy some more copies and if you think you would like one then please tell me.

Yours for Christ's sake,

Br Alan Holdsworth.

More images from the Provincial Synod 2026 at Swanwick



The new Provincial Board:

Br Livingstone Thompson
Sr Jane Carter
Sr Roberta Hoey
Br Philip Cooper
Sr Carmen Warner
Br Michael Newman

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Unity guests to the Synod:

Br Barrington Daley
(Jamaica and the Cayman Islands Province)
Sr Sandra Oosterwolde
(European Continental Province)
Sr Roslyn Hamblin
(East West Indies Province)
Sr Winelle Kirton-Roberts
(European Continental Province)
Br Mikie Roberts
(World Council of Churches)
Br Milan Svoboda
(Czech Province)

Some of the Officers at Synod:

Sr Sue Selby, the Chairing panel (Sr Christine Emanuel and Br Philip Cooper), the clerks (Sr Sally Ann Johnston and Br John Holmes) and the steward of Synod (Br Chris Drake).



© Sr Sarah Groves

'What I Believe'

Moravian Messenger Editor Sr Sarah Groves interviews Br Ian Haggas



© Sr Sarah Groves

Br Ian is a member at Fulneck Moravian Church in Pudsey and is the Administrator to the Choir House at Fulneck. The Choir House is a charity linked to the Moravian Church whose purpose is to provide housing primarily for people who have served the Church.

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

I was baptised at the local Anglican church and confirmed in the Moravian Church in 1970. I am divorced and have a grown-up daughter and I am now retired.

My Mum and Dad had no connection to church; Dad's mother however had and was never without her bible, even when she lost her sight. She never let go from her Lord and Saviour. Educated at Carlton Grammar, I subsequently obtained an apprentice within the motor trade and gained City & Guilds then Institute of Motor Industries qualifications. This opened doors into management, being head hunted and opportunities to visit countries that I wouldn't have otherwise.

How and when did you come to faith?

I followed a big drum: 'Mum I'm just going to follow this band', and as it came on the street just above church, I was invited to go into this very strange place, a Church. My faith deepened in 1983 when going to various special events and services in Scotland.

How did the Boys Brigade shape your faith and life and what roles did take on in BB?

I am just starting my 53rd year as a Leader. I consider it being one of my greatest challenges: being able to challenge new Leaders in their Christian outlook, as some have no faith which is so sad when their church is asking them to carry out Christian mission. I enjoyed working in the outreach tents at various festivals.

Tell us about your working life and the role of the Administrator to the Choir House

In 2005 God gave a sign to stop which I ignored and carried on working but then had to stop as I had a stroke and eventually resigned from my job. Bishop Sarah visited and we had useful discussions. You know that God will bring you life, and in 2007 it was to help at the National Brigade Conference in Bradford, as the Yorkshire & Humberside secretary, and recovered with help from a fantastic support team around me from BBHQ, District and Battalion and my own family.

Christmas 2007 I was able to find a new venture working for HBOS/Lloyds. Through training I obtained The Charter Institute of Bankers and was able to introduce new ways of working at the bank, mostly on the legal side, and some even saved time and money.

In the Administrator's role at the Choir House, I have been able to put skills I learnt from my previous experience into practice.

The role includes financial and administrative management such as rent invoicing and banking, surveying property, assessing and arranging repairs and general maintenance to the building internally and externally; mandatory gas, electrical and emergency safety checks, sourcing suppliers, negotiating quotes, keeping up to date with latest legislation, compliance and health and safety requirements e.g. Renters Rights, and dealing with residents' issues.

What do you struggle with in your personal faith and what gives you strength and comfort?

I have overcome struggles. Jesus is plain to understand though and good preachers can speak at any level. The Boys Brigade strap line is 'Live life to the full' (John 10:10) and Philipians 4:6 states: 'Do not be anxious'.

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

Yes, in my earlier life. I just didn't know where he was leading me, until he stopped me in 2005 and then started with me again. It's this point that I try and share with those who are hurting.

Why are so many people turning their backs on the Church and how can the Church be more relevant to people?

I don't see this; I see a growing church and new starts, such as renovating old restaurants, especially in Hull and Bradford. It is for us to change our working mission styles and drop the 18th Century styles. Will we listen to how God directs us?

What can we learn from those of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds?

We continue to learn from each other, which is an important part to being a Christian.

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

I am more a live West End show type person 'Come from Away', which had the words from Philipians in the speaking parts.

The place where you feel closest to God?

I am lucky living in Fulneck and the vast amount of God's country around me. Just being in my flat preparing for a service and working with the Methodist Circuit Superintendent Minister means I have been able to preach at some points throughout the year.

What inscription on your gravestone or epitaph, if any?

A gravestone just to say, 'I was here', with name and dates.



© Moravian Church

Journeys of Moravian Women: *A journey today*

Over the years Moravian women have travelled for many different reasons; many of you may have travelled to work abroad for the church, attend conferences or volunteer in schools or hospitals. The travels have often changed lives, added to our knowledge and spread the church to new places. As a worldwide church we can give thanks for the early women who travelled leaving their homes and setting out with little but their faith to sustain them.

My focus in a series of articles is on the travels of women who over the centuries have taken on important work and often challenged the cultural perceptions of women. Much that I write will be drawn from materials based on our archives in the UK, the USA and in Herrnhut (the Unity Archives) and some from personal experiences. Over the centuries Moravians have written letters, diaries and autobiographies (Lebenslauf): these offer a rich picture of their lives, work and faith. We can draw on this material to learn and understand our past and also to inform the present and help to shape our future. My first article is from travels earlier this year.

In March, I wrote about the Unity Women's Desk (UWD) 5th Consultation which was in Arusha, Tanzania. 'With hearts, and hands and voices' was focused on how we can each become an advocate for the damage of violence to women and girls within our Church and societies. It was a powerful and inspiring event and in her concluding comments Sr Jane Carter encouraged us all to take action locally. This raises the question of what action has the British Province taken in the past six months? The answer is quite a lot.

As I am sure you are aware, the Synod was held last July and in the August issue of the *Moravian Messenger* Sr Janet Cooper wrote about a proposal that was passed unanimously to challenge gender-based violence (GBV). In her article she explained fully the proposal and the horrific statistics relating to GBV in this country.

It is true that in our country, unlike many, there are laws against stalking and domestic abuse. However, I was recently reading a moving story where a woman made the positive decision to stay with her abusive partner to enable her to collect the high level of evidence needed to ensure a long prison sentence when the case finally went to court. To reach that position she took many beatings and her mother supported her, despite her natural concerns for her daughter being severely injured. Also, it is worth being aware that the most dangerous time for a

victim is if and when they decide to leave the abuser.

One part of the Synod proposal states that congregations should consider supporting both the 16 Days of Activism and Thursdays in Black campaigns. For each, you can find more by searching the internet. For 16 Days of Activism (25th November to 10th December) UN Women and //16daysactivism.org are good places to go, plus local domestic abuse charities may offer advice and resources. The World Council of Churches have an area dedicated to Thursdays in Black and I can help you get badges for you and for congregations.

Thursdays in Black has been on its own journey. Jenny Sprong (South African Methodist Minister) recently explained how it started in Argentina in the 1980s when women just disappeared if they spoke out against violence. Picked up by a group of British women, then to Singapore and now worldwide. Today people wearing black on Thursday or a black badge are a community of hundreds of thousands: please join them.

If you use social media, then head to the MWA Facebook page as I will be regularly putting up ideas there about both campaigns. All are welcome on that page and you don't have to be an MWA member.

Here I have focused upon action in this country and what we can all do going forward. The conference stimulated many discussions and the sharing of many ideas. Action across our church continues to fight GBV. As Sr Janet Cooper wrote in her article the rationale is that GBV denies the Biblical affirmation that women and men are created equally. I invite you all to reflect upon what you and your congregation can do to raise awareness and offer support when needed.

Journeys don't always mean packing a suitcase, it can mean changing and taking action where you are so please get involved. What we are each doing proves that Moravian men and women are strong and can achieve positive outcomes. Next month I will look back at a woman who made a daring journey many years ago and whose impact is still visible in various places.

Sr Mary Holmes
Fulneck



© Sr Mary Holmes

Leominster, Herefordshire

On 4th July, the Leominster Moravian Church invited the Kindle Singers, and director Jon Watson, to perform Songs from Stage and Screen in aid of the completion of the organ renovation. Sr Dilys Howard's sister, Gwyneth Lloyd was visiting from South Africa, so they began with duets by Purcell. Gwyneth also sang the solo *Vilia* by Lehar, and the choir showed off their extensive repertoire from shows and films. Dilys ended the concert with *The Sound of Music*, followed by the choir's *Edelweiss* and *Climb Every Mountain*.



© Sr Dulcie Scott

A big thank you to the choir for their wonderful singing, along with Sr Dilys and her sister Gwyneth Lloyd singing duets. It was a lovely hour of music.

Sr Dulcie Scott

Royton, Greater Manchester

Worship

We held our usual district gathering at Fairfield on 28th June. Br Woolford led the worship, which included a feat of escapology to illustrate the theme of 'With God, everything is possible'. The service was a lovely time of fellowship with our sisters and brothers from the Lancashire District, and the cakes served afterwards were delicious! The collection taken during the service was donated to the relief operations in Venezuela, following the recent devastating earthquakes.



© Sr Hannah Coope

On 10th May, Br Stephen Gledhill from Lower Wyke led our Church Anniversary service. It is always good to see Br Stephen and Sr Cathy, and we do appreciate the help they give us in filling the pulpit.

We recently shared worship on two consecutive Sundays with our neighbours from Trinity Methodists. On 24th May, Whit Sunday, we joined them for their service. Unfortunately, there was no Whit Walk this year, as none of the other churches were planning to walk. On the following Sunday 31st May, appropriately Trinity Sunday, they joined us for worship, led by Br Woolford. Br Stuart Brierley also brought his Fair Trade stall on that day. Both services were well-attended and we enjoyed this time of fellowship together.

Social Events

Our Spring Flower and Craft Show took place on 30th May. Sr Judith Wilson writes: people were encouraged to bring their displays of mainly flowers and vegetables to church. There was an array of wonderful creations exhibited using all kinds of materials. The event was open to both adults and children. In church, tables were set up with all kinds of craft equipment, such as card, scissors, coloured paper, ribbons and crayons, as well as vegetables and tasks were set in small groups to create more works of art using our imagination and the equipment provided. Instructions were given as to what we should be working towards. We all had a great deal of fun letting our imaginations run wild. A quiz was provided and poetry thrown in for good measure. A lovely arrangement of food was contributed and was consumed whilst chatting, amid lots of fun and laughter. It was a great afternoon of fellowship and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended. All the wonderful

designs were displayed in the church, and they acted as a reminder of what can be achieved when we encourage each other.

MWA

On 18th April, the sisters of the MWA once again set off for Hall Green in Birmingham for their annual Away Day. I have attended the MWA Day for a number of years now and have found it to be a fun, enriching experience. It is an opportunity to deepen your faith with other women of all ages. We then had roll call in which I stood up to represent the new online group called LIFT. After lunchtime on the MWA day we went to our sessions. The day concluded with a Cup of Covenant Service, and of course cake. I am looking forward to the next one and more LIFT online sessions.

Sr Marilyn Powell writes

The sisters of the MWA here at Royton recently invited the sisters from Dukinfield to share an afternoon tea them. This was held to raise money for the Macmillan Cancer Support charity which ensures people with cancer get the best care whoever they are and wherever they live. It has become quite a tradition now to read the papers together and share delicious scones from our local bakery smothered in butter and jam. A total of £132.90 was raised for Macmillan.

The sisters of the congregation gathered for their annual Sisters' Sunday celebration on 3rd May, beginning with breakfast at 9.30am. The speaker this year was Lilian Day, a member at our neighbouring church, Trinity Methodists, who spoke about her experiences over many years of fundraising for Children in Need. A collection was taken and £100 was given to Lilian as a donation to the charity.

Bible Study

Br Woolford is currently holding a series of Bible Study sessions, held in church fortnightly on Thursdays at 1pm, based on the book 'Our Moravian Treasures', edited by Peter Vogt.

Congregational News

Br Ian and Sr Lisa Howarth have recently moved from Royton to a new home in Yorkshire. They intend to continue worshipping with us here at Royton, but Sr Lisa has sadly resigned from her role on Church Committee. We thank her for her service and wish them both much happiness in their new home.

Two of our sisters have celebrated 'milestone' birthdays recently: Sr Moreen Walkden her 90th on 24th May, and Sr Lesley Benedek her 80th on 14th June. Congratulations and best wishes to both these sisters and to anyone else who has been celebrating recently, and we keep them in our thoughts and prayers, along with all those who are sick or going through difficult times, and those unable to join us at this time.

As always, may the Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another.

Sr Hannah Coope and Sr Gail Holden

Ockbrook, Derbyshire

Following their hugely successful performances in London and Leicester, 'Moravian Brass' were our special guests at 'Summer on the Settlement' on 8th August, and what a marvellous time we had! They were not our only 'stars' as we also welcomed Niels Fischer, the organist of the Moravian Church in Zeist, Holland and his very talented family, who also gave a demonstration of how they constructed our giant star, which has enhanced the church, for a number of years.



© Sr Jayne Brewster



The weather was magnificent and we had an extraordinary number of visitors, who in addition to being entertained by the brass band, also enjoyed exhibitions in the church and tours of the Settlement. They were hosted and guided by costumed congregational members, including Br Joachim Kruesel, in the role of our first 18th century minister, John Ockershausen. Also in costume were our stalwart catering team, who raised valuable money for church funds with fabulous food and drink, all day, as well as providing a two-course evening meal, to thank our German visitors.

'Moravian Brass' got thoroughly onto the spirit of the occasion, performing pieces from the cupola, in addition to their main concert, at 4.30pm, when they performed to an appreciative full house in the church. The occasion was opened by the Mayor of Erewash, who also happens to be our own Br Greg Maskalick!

We had a final bonus on Sunday, when they teamed up with Niels Fischer, for a memorable morning service.

We feel we have made many new friends, both from the local community, the wider UK and Europe, and thank everyone involved for making the day so special.

Sr Jayne Brewster

FROM CHURCH HOUSE

Death

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is with sadness that we notify you of the death of Br John Wilkinson, who passed into higher service on 17th August.

We celebrate a life lived in service to Christ. Following completion of his training at Northern College and Victoria University Manchester, Br Wilkinson was called to serve in the Irish District at Cliftonville, Belfast and Ballinderry in 1990 and was ordained in the same year. He went on to serve in the Eastern District at Harlesden, London in 1996 and then in Ockbrook in 2000 (now Midlands District). Br Wilkinson took on a period of further study at Nottingham University gaining an MA in 2003. He retired to Fairfield with his late wife Beryl (nee Grundy, married 1960) in 2004. During his retirement he took on the role of interim minister of the Salem congregation between 2008-2009 and continued to serve occasionally in retirement in the Lancashire District.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Br John Wilkinson will take place on Friday 2nd October 2026 at 2:00pm at Fairfield Moravian Church (M43 6AE). Refreshments will be served after the service at Fairfield College.

Donations in lieu of flowers to the Outward Bound Trust: <https://www.outwardbound.org.uk/donate/>.

Please continue to hold Br John's family in your prayers at this time, especially Liz, Sarah, Helen and Peter.

Yours in Christ's Service,
Provincial Board

Reconstitution

Following Synod 2026, the Provincial Board (PEC) has reconstituted. Sr Roberta Hoey serves as Chair, Br Michael Newman as Provincial Treasurer, and Br Livingstone Thompson as Company Secretary. All Board members are Trustees of the Moravian Union Incorporated and The Choir House, as well as Directors of the Moravian Union Incorporated. As the two full-time Provincial Elders, Sr Roberta and Br Michael are responsible for the day-to-day management of the charity's affairs.

Operational responsibility is divided across three principal portfolios. Roberta is the key contact for Ministry, supported by Sr Jane Carter and Br Philip Cooper, and for Property, supported by Br Michael Newman and Sr Carmen Warner. Br Michael Newman is the key contact for Finance, supported by Sr Jane Carter and Br Livingstone Thompson. Br Philip Cooper, Br Michael Newman and Sr Lorraine Shorten continue as Ecumenical Officers. The British Mission Board is chaired by Br Livingstone Thompson, with Sr Jane Carter as Treasurer.

Provincial Diary for October

3	Yorkshire District Conference	Lower Wyke
10	Lancashire District Conference	online
10	Irish District Conference	Gracehill
13	Finance and Property Committee	Fulneck
14-15	Provincial Board	Fulneck
17	Eastern District Conference	Fetter Lane
17	Midlands District Conference	online
19	Church Service Committee	Fulneck
21	Faith and Order and Ecumenical Relations Committee	Fulneck
22	Archives and Heritage Committee	online
24	Western District Conference	Bath South
2 Nov	Mission and Society Committee	Hall Green

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Confirmations

6th Sept 2026 Jennifer Mary Dunrod Fetter Lane

Deaths

14th June 2026	Hazel Law	Kilwarlin
5th July 2026	Eileen Hufton	Royton
9th August 2026	Nell McCambley	Kilwarlin
11th August 2026	Janet Speight	Gomersal
19th August 2026	Anne Reid	Royton

DATES TO REMEMBER

23 Sept-8 Oct	Fairtrade Fortnight (www.fairtrade.org.uk)
28 Sept-4 Oct	Good Money Week, previously National Ethical Investment Week (http://goodmoneyweek.com)
4	Homeless Sunday (www.housingjustice.org.uk)
11-17	Prisons Week (www.prisonsworld.org)
11-18	Week of Prayer for World Peace (https://weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk/)
18	Anti-Slavery Day (www.antislaveryday.com)
	Church Action on Poverty Sunday (www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday)
24	United Nations Day (www.un.org/en/events/unday)
25	Summer time ends
31	Halloween

Edith Cavell

When I was in my teenage years, I loved to read biographies of heroes of the First and Second World Wars. I greatly admired these people, and I suppose I hoped that if it was required, I would be as courageous in standing for my principles as they were.

I was reminded of my love for these stories when I was on holiday recently in Norfolk. I visited Norwich for a day and was delighted to find that Edith Cavell was buried in or rather just outside Norwich Cathedral. In addition, there are a series of small artworks by Brian Whelan on display in the Cathedral near to her grave which both tell the story of her life and invite us to reflect upon her life and its possible relevance to our own lives today.

Edith was born in Swardeston, Norfolk on 4th December 1865. She was the daughter of a rector and initially worked as a governess in Belgium, before she trained to be a nurse in London. She worked in hospitals in London and Manchester. Later she went to Brussels as Matron in Belgium's first training hospital and school for nurses. Edith is regarded as the founder of modern nursing education in Belgium.

In July 1914, she was at home in Norfolk visiting her mother when the First World War broke out. Because Belgium was under threat from advancing German troops, she decided that she should return to Belgium immediately. Edith saw it as her duty to be with her nurses as they cared for the dying and wounded. By the end of August 1914, Brussels was occupied by German forces and Edith's nursing school became a Red Cross Hospital.

The hospital treated wounded soldiers from both sides as well as continuing to care for civilians. Edith emphasised to her nurses that their work was for humanity; 'the profession of nursing,' she said '... knew no frontiers.' She reminded her nurses that each wounded soldier was someone's husband, father or brother.

In September 1914, Edith was asked to help two wounded British soldiers - she nursed them in the hospital and then helped them to escape into nearby neutral Netherlands where they were free. Edith became part of a network of people who helped approximately 200 French, British, and Belgian soldiers to freedom. Edith sheltered them in the hospital and then arranged guides to take them to the safety of the border.

On 5th August 1915, she was arrested for this activity. She was tried and found guilty on 7th October and was executed by firing squad at 7am on 12th October 1915. She was buried immediately, without a funeral, near where she had been executed. Her last recorded words were: 'My conscience is easy. I die for God and my country.'

Her execution was legal under international law, but her death caused outrage in Britain and in many neutral countries and



her image was used on posters aimed at recruiting people to join the military.

In 1919, when the war was over, Edith's body was exhumed and brought back to England where a memorial service was held for her at Westminster Abbey and she was reburied at Norwich Cathedral near her childhood home.

Edith's story is a story of true heroism. She faced danger and ultimately

death with incredible courage. Whilst researching Edith for this article, I was pleased to see that she appeared on the BBC 'bitesize' - a website to help children and young people both to revise and complete coursework, so perhaps this indicates that her story is told in schools around the country. I really hope so, because it is a story which deserves to be heard.

Edith would no doubt be described as a patriot, indeed she would probably have described herself in this way. But Edith's life was directed by something greater than patriotism - God. Edith was a devout Christian.

The night before she was to be executed, Edith received Holy Communion from the Anglican chaplain in Brussels, Stirling Gahan. During their conversation together, Stirling records that Edith said these words: 'But this I would say, standing as I do in view of God and Eternity: I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone.'

The second part of the quote is carved onto her gravestone at Norwich Cathedral.

There is a lot of talk these days about patriotism. Sometimes, in the name of patriotism, stories about people are being told and used with a particular aim, an aim which misrepresents some members of our communities; an aim which goes against the wishes of the individual and their families. Some might say that this is what happened to Edith's story when it was used on recruitment posters.

Edith's story deserves to be told and to be known because her story reminds all of us, but especially those of us who profess a faith in God: that love of our country should not ever take priority over our love for God and God's Kingdom.

Sr Janet Cooper

Minister of Fulneck Moravian Congregation

The Moravian Messenger

Official Journal of the Moravian Church in the British Province. Published monthly by the authority of the Provincial Synod.

Advertisements and all communications concerning distribution and supply should be sent to the Editorial Team.

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Contributions for the Messenger should reach the editorial team by the 7th day of the preceding month.

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