



FULNECK CHURCH MAGAZINE July/August 2026

www.fulneck.org.uk

The British Province of the Unitas Fratrum (Moravian Church),

Registered Charity Number 251211

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Minister's letter for July/August Newsletter

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends of Fulneck,

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 wasn't a total geek, I did also admire pop and television stars - but they didn't inspire me in the same way!!).

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. At the time, there was no established nursing profession in that country.



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.

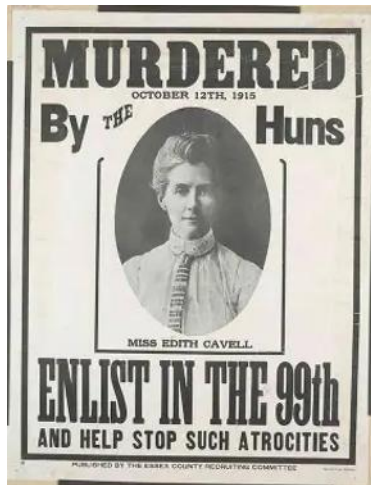
In essentials unity, in non-essentials freedom, in all things love.

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 5 August 1915, she was arrested for this activity. She was tried and found guilty on 7 October and was executed by firing squad at 7am on 12 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.

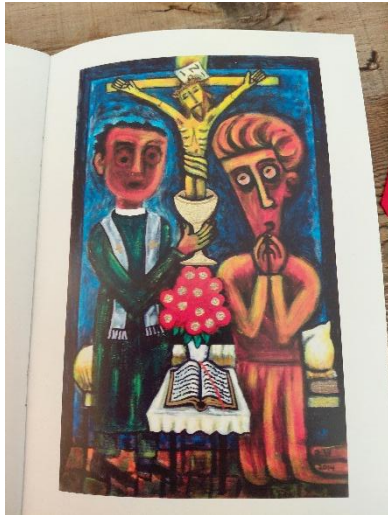
In 1919, when the war was over, Edith's body was exhumed and brought back to England where a memorial service was held for her at Westminster Abbey and she was reburied at Norwich Cathedral near her childhood home.

Edith's story is a story of true heroism. She faced danger and ultimately death with incredible courage. I don't know how well known now her story is but whilst researching

Edith for this letter, 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.

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The night before she was to be executed, Edith received Holy Communion from the Anglican chaplain in Brussels, Stirling Gahan. The picture here is one of the series in Norwich Cathedral by Brian Whelan. It depicts Edith's final Holy Communion and her firm belief that Christ was with her during that service and would be with her in the hours to come.

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 above quote is carved onto her gravestone at Norwich Cathedral.

There are a lot of England flags around at the moment, many are there in support of the England Football team as they attempt to win the World Cup. Some flags have been flying for quite a while now as a mark of patriotism.

There is a lot of talk these days about patriotism. Sometimes there seems to be a lot of anger and bitterness around 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.

Yours in Christ

Sr. Janet

Treasurer's role: we are still in need of a Treasurer from September so again please speak to Sr Janet if you know anyone who may be interested and willing to fulfil this role.

The congregation is not allowed to function without a treasurer. So: It is essential we find someone - a volunteer or a qualified person we can pay - to be a treasurer. The congregation cannot function without this.

Prayer Watch: Sunday 5 July: 7.00-20.00

The list is in the Bell Room and we invite everyone to sign up to ensure that the Prayer Watch is continuous. Please speak to anyone who is unable to attend church but would wish to be on the list.

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ORGAN RECITAL: 2 July: 11.15 in Fulneck Church



Lee Ward and friends will be offering their monthly organ recitals, starting on Thursday 2 July. Entrance is free and there will be a retiring collection for church funds. All are welcome to come along and enjoy the wonderful sounds that will fill the church.

Future dates are 6 August, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November and 3 December.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY: SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2026

Ordinary days – extraordinary lives:

stories of our global Moravian family

Time to sing and dance during a service – different to Fulneck and joined by our faith.



It all starts from 10.30 and goes on until 16.00; tours are on the hour from 11.00.

Come along to an exhibition about the lives of Moravian folk over the centuries, visit the museum and take a tour of the settlement. Refreshments in the BB Hall will keep you energised for the day and offer a chance to sit and chat.

If you are able to offer any help then please speak to Sr Myra.

Sr Mary

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Pre-Synod and SYNOD 2026

On Thursday 25 June, at 19.00, there will be a pre-Synod meeting at Horton Moravian Church. All are welcome to attend. This is an opportunity to hear what proposals are to be discussed at Synod.

Synod will then take place in early July. Please note there are still vacancies on various Provincial committees and on the Provincial Board. Please discuss these with Sr Janet Cooper if you wish to know more.

An Artist's Journey Through Fulneck: paintings by local artist Bruce Newton.



This exhibition offers a rare chance to see Bruce Newton's work, including paintings of Fulneck alongside well-known Yorkshire scenes. Through his art, you can also explore the Settlement's history and importance.

The exhibition will take place in the Boys' Brigade Building, Fulneck, over the weekend of 11 - 12 July 2026: Saturday 11 July, 10.00 – 16.00 and Sunday 12 July, 13.00 - 16.00

Admission is free. Tea, coffee, and cakes will be available, with all funds going to the church and the museum. If you are able to bake for this or volunteer to help then please contact Srs Ann Kernohan, Chris Porter or Elaine Keighley.

Visitors of all ages are welcome. Children can enjoy a craft area and enter a Fulneck-themed art competition. Bruce will judge the entries at the end of the exhibition, and the two winners will be contacted soon afterwards. Competition categories: children aged seven and under and children aged 8 to 11.

To support this special event, the Museum will be open throughout the exhibition. Come along, enjoy a wonderful day, and take in the beautiful setting of Fulneck.

Yorkshire District Retreat: 5 September

Br Kenneth Evans has planned this and will be pleased to hear from you should you wish to go along.

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Strawberry Fayre : Lower Wyke: 4 July: 14.00 onwards.



All are welcome to go along and enjoy the delights of a strawberry fayre.

Facebook page – MWA

I regularly post items on this page and hope to build up the following. If you are on Facebook please take a look and, if interested follow. You will be very welcome. Thanks.

Sr Mary

CALENDAR

Thurs 25	09.45 Morning prayers.
	19.00 Pre-Synod meeting. Horton Moravian Church.
Sat 27	13.00 Men's Fellowship. Ockbrook Moravian Church.
Sun 28	10.30 Morning worship. Sr Janet Cooper.
	15.00 Churches Together picnic. Pudsey Parish Church.

July

Thurs 2	09.45 Morning prayers.
	11.15 Organ recital.
Sun 5	14.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion. Sr Janet Cooper and Br Kenneth Evans.
	7.00-20.00 Prayer Watch.
Thurs 9	09.45 Morning prayers.
Thurs 9-Mon 13	Synod: Swanwick Conference Centre.
Sat 11 – Sun 12	Art exhibition: BB Hall.
Sun 12	10.30 Morning worship. Sr Cathy Gledhill.
Thurs 16	09.45 Morning prayers.

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Sun 19 10.30 Morning worship. Br Stephen Gledhill.

Wed 22 19.15 Church Committee.

Thurs 23 09.45 Morning prayers.

Sun 26 10.30 Morning worship. Sr Janet Cooper.

Thurs 30 09.45 Morning prayers

August

Sun 2 14.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion. Sr Janet Cooper and Sr Patsy Holdsworth.

Thurs 6 09.45 Morning prayers.

Sun 9 10.30 Morning worship. Sr Janet Cooper.

Thurs 13 09.45 Morning prayers.

Sun 16 10.30 Morning worship. Sr Janet Cooper.

Wed 19 19.15 Church Committee.

Thurs 20 09.45 Morning prayers.

Sun 23 10.30 Morning worship. Sr Janet Cooper.

Thurs 27 09.45 Morning prayers.

Sun 30 10.30 Café church. BB Hall.

For the September magazine please send me material by **Monday 24 August**. Thanks, Mary.

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