



## FULNECK CHURCH MAGAZINE June 2026

[www.fulneck.org.uk](http://www.fulneck.org.uk)

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

Registered Charity Number 251211

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### Minister's Letter

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends of Fulneck

During the month of May, I have had two periods of time away from home. The first was a retreat for the serving ministers and lay workers of the British Province; the second was the European Women's Conference. Both were held at High Leigh Conference Centre in Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire. Both the retreat and conference were opportunities to recharge spiritual batteries although both were also quite tiring!

Amy Gohdes Luhman, who is a bishop of the Moravian Church based in Minneapolis, USA led the retreat and focussed on a number of Hebrew and Greek words in the Bible which she described as both 'Words to live by' and 'Words to story ourselves by.' During our time at the retreat, the participants shared many stories with each other. Rhoinde Doth who is a Bishop of the Moravian Church based in the Netherlands led the Bible Studies at the European Women's Conference using as her theme 'Jesus the Storyteller' – the same theme which the Moravian Women's Association has been covering in its monthly meetings.

Stories are really important to humans. Amongst many things, stories are how we make meaning of life, stories are how we understand ourselves and others, stories are used to influence, to encourage, to teach.

Jesus was a great storyteller. His stories are usually called parables. Parables are not unique to Jesus – there was a strong tradition of parables in Jesus' time. Jesus' parables are however some of the best-known stories of all time.

One of my favourites is 'The Good Samaritan.' You can read the story in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 10, verses 25-37.

The story was told by Jesus to a listening crowd of Jewish people. One of the listeners, an expert in the law asks Jesus how he might gain eternal life; Jesus asks him in return what the Law says about gaining eternal life. Now, the expert in the law, **knows** his law. Love God and love your neighbour he immediately replies but he then wonders - 'Who is my neighbour?' and Jesus answers the question with the story as follows.

There was a man who was travelling along the lonely road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Whilst on his way he was viciously attacked by robbers who left him half-dead by the side of the road. Two religious leaders passed by in turn and although you might have expected them to help the beaten man, they didn't. Next comes along a Samaritan man. Now Samaritans were hated by the Jewish people for a whole variety of reasons. At this point as you read, you need to imagine the crowd who were listening to Jesus, being shocked, surprised and muttering amongst themselves about those bad Samaritans.

When I used to use this story with young people in Manchester, I used to have the beaten man as a Manchester United/City fan and the Samaritan as a fan of the opposite team – young people in Manchester could then understand the hatred between the Jews and Samaritans much more easily!

Parables usually have a twist – and in the Good Samaritan the twist is that it is the hated, low-regarded Samaritan who helps the badly injured man. He saw the beaten man and stopped. He tended as best he could to the man's needs. He took the man to an inn to ensure his safety; he paid for ongoing help and care for the injured man. This part of the story would have been met with utter disbelief by Jesus' listeners. A Samaritan! A Samaritan assisting – surely not? – there are no good Samaritans!

So, concludes Jesus – who in this story was the neighbour to the badly beaten man?

I wonder if the expert in the law hesitated a second before responding? He probably wouldn't want to say that the neighbour was ..... the Samaritan. But 'the Samaritan' is the answer to the question Jesus asks. 'The Samaritan' is the answer to the question that the expert in law asked Jesus – who is the neighbour I should love?

I wonder if Jesus came and told us this parable today what two 'categories' of people he would use in his story? I wonder how he would make the point that in God's kingdom – everyone is our neighbour, everyone is to be loved?

Sr Janet Cooper

## **Treasurer role**

After serving the congregation for a number of years as treasurer, Br Saynor is stepping down from this role from 31<sup>st</sup> August. Consequently, we need a new treasurer. If any of you feel you can fulfil the role or know someone who can please can you let me know as soon as possible. The treasurer does not have to be a member of the congregation and we would not need the person to attend every church committee.

It is really important that we find someone to carry out this role as without a treasurer we cannot function as a congregation.

Yours in Christ

Sr Janet Cooper



## Organ recitals and a brass band

### **Organ Recitals with Lee Ward**

11.15am on Thursdays

2 July

6 August

3 September

1 October

5 November

3 December

No charge but donations welcome  
for church funds.

### **The Clifton and Lightcliffe Brass Band**

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>

September at 7.30pm

£12 including  
refreshments

For more information email [fulneckchurchevents@gmail.com](mailto:fulneckchurchevents@gmail.com)

Fulneck Moravian Church, Fulneck, Pudsey LS28 8NT

Charity number 251211

## Moravian Provincial Men's Fellowship:

### 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration: 27 June starting at 13.00

At Ockbrook Moravian Church the Men's Fellowship get together for this important celebration. The theme is two significant members of the Moravian church.

You are invited to go along or join by zoom. If going, please take food; tea/ coffee will be available from 12.30.

For more information please contact Br John Holmes or Br Kenneth Evans.

## An Artist's Journey Through Fulneck

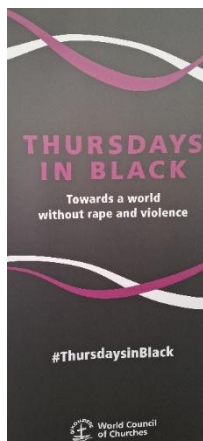
There will be an exhibition offering the rare opportunity to see the paintings of Bruce Newton. His work includes paintings of Fulneck and other well-known Yorkshire scenes.

The exhibition will take place in the BB Hall over the weekend of 11-12 July 2026: Saturday 11 July, 10.00-16.00; Sunday 12 July, 13.00-16.00.

Admission is free. Refreshments will be available, with all proceeds going to charity.

## THURSDAYS IN BLACK

Earlier this year Sr Janet and myself attended the Unity Women's Desk Consultation, where the theme was: *With hearts and hands and voices.*



The topic was gender-based violence and how we can all take action to challenge this. GBV is a tragic reality across the world and our Moravian Unity. Frequently, victims are hidden, silenced by fear of stigma and even fear of further violence.

In the UK it is a significant issue: the National Police Chiefs' Council<sup>1</sup> state that a woman is killed by a man every 3 days and 20% of ALL reported crime is violence against women and girls. This means it is happening to our neighbours, in our communities and our churches. We must ask, what can we do to combat these tragic facts?

One simple step is to support the World Council of Churches campaign 'Thursdays in Black.' I have the badges, for sale for £1.00. Please buy one and wear it every Thursday.

Sr Mary

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<sup>1</sup> [Violence Against Women and Girls](#)

## Calendar

### May

Thurs 28 09.45 Morning prayers.

**Sun 31** 10.30 Café church. BB Hall.

### June 2026

Thurs 4 09.45 Morning prayers.

**Sun 7** 14.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion. Sr Janet Cooper and Br Kenneth  
Evans.

Thurs 11 09.45 Morning prayers.

**Sun 14** 10.30 Morning worship. Sr Gloria Hanley.

Thurs 18 09.45 Morning prayers.

**Sun 21** 10.30. Father's Day. Morning worship. Sr Ruth France.

Wed 24 19.15 Church committee. BB Hall.

Thurs 25 09.45 Morning prayers.

Sat 27 13.00 Men's Fellowship. Ockbrook Moravian Church.

**Sun 28** 10.30 Morning worship. Sr Janet Cooper.

### 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.

For the July/August magazine please send me material by **Monday 22 June**. Thanks, Mary  
mary@woodhall28.co.uk