



FULNECK CHURCH MAGAZINE September 2026

www.fulneck.org.uk

The British Province of the Unitas Fratrum (Moravian Church),
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Minister's Letter

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Friends of Fulneck,

I know New Year is when we are supposed to think about new things and new starts, but for me the time to think about these things has always been September. It is probably because for most of my life new beginnings have always started in September: whether it is myself starting school or college or even work (my first physiotherapy role started in September) or my children starting school, college and university, new starts are always in September.

I vividly remember that sense of anticipation when I went back to school with new equipment and writing books as yet unspoilt by inky blots. I recall the excitement of starting my physiotherapy diploma – surely now, I was really a grown up!

At the age of 50, I was selected by my healthcare trust to study for a Master's Degree in Dementia – that was something really outside my comfort zone and I wondered if I would cope with the academic demands of a Master's Degree. I also remember the anxiety and fear when I started theological college in the Autumn of 2023 – what on earth was I thinking of returning to education and starting a new career at the grand old age of 60?!

And last September, I began my ministry with you all here at Fulneck and that new beginning was also accompanied by all the emotions and more mentioned above.

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I have often told people that I don't do change – or at least I don't do change very well and it is true that I do like familiarity and security, I think most of us do. Life, however, isn't like that is it? Whether we like it or not change happens and sometimes we are in control of it (as I was when I embarked on different academic courses) and sometimes we are not – when we lose relationships, or jobs etc.

I am often also very tired of being forced into new ways of doing things; something which seems to occur very frequently – shopping and banking for example – why can't I just have a helpful shop/bank employee to serve me?

Change and newness have always been a part of life. It is evident if you read the Scriptures that people throughout the thousands of years that the Bible covers were themselves experiencing change and newness. Throughout it all, the message from God was to trust that God was there in it all – the change and the newness.

Indeed, often it is God who is bringing about the change and the newness, much as we might like to, I don't think God's purpose for humanity was for us to all stay the same.

God is often telling God's people that they must change – change how they worship God, change how they treat each other. God tells them that they must be prepared to be given a new heart, a heart that understands how God wants God's people to live:

'A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you, and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh' (Ezekiel 36:26).

This change, this newness, is something that all of us who follow God must undergo and I don't believe it is something that just happens once. Throughout our lives with God, we will experience this change from stone heart to flesh heart many, many times as we progress on our faith journey with God.

So, if like me, September is the time for new beginnings for you, I pray that you will commit yourself to some God-given newness this month.

Yours in Christ

Janet

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BRETHREN'S FESTIVAL: BREAKFAST

Sunday 11 October: 9.00am. Boys' Brigade Hall

Please join us at this wonderful opportunity for Brothers to meet together and share breakfast before the service at 10.30 led by Br Peter Gubi.

The cost is £6 for orange juice, tea/coffee, cereal plus a sausage sandwich. If you would prefer a vegetarian sausage sandwich, please speak to Br Trevor Kernohan or Br John Holmes.

There is a form in the Bell Room so please sign up and come along.

Thank you.
Br John.

SYNOD

The 103rd Synod was held at Swanwick from 9-13 July. Sr Sarah Groves was President and Br Joachim Kreusel Vice President of Synod, Br Philip Cooper the chair.

Synod was attended by a number of guests including *Rev. Dr Mikie Roberts, World Council of Churches programme executive for Spiritual Life*. At Synod he asked Sr Roberta Hoey for comments which I offer below:

The chair of the British Province, Sr Roberta Hoey, remarked that "Faithfulness in Change" was more than the synod theme.

"We faced the realities before us with honesty, but also with hope," said Hoey. "The synod affirmed a future focused on organisational renewal and a commitment to God's mission."

"It also recognised the importance of engaging more intentionally with our theological inheritance, not because we have all the answers, but because faithful change requires us to continue reflecting together on the beliefs and practices that shape our life as a church."

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We voted on a number of changes to Board membership. Br Michael Newman becomes a F/T Board member; two P/T members for 4 years were voted on – Sr Carmen Warner (Harold Road congregation, London) and Br Philip Cooper. P/T for 2 years is Br Livingstone Thompson.

Many proposals were put forward for discussion. Here are a few of those agreed:

- It was passed that there will be a General Secretary to the Board. This is an executive role and the person will support the Board in all their work. By passing this it was possible to agree that from Synod 2028 there will only be one F/T stipendiary Board member – this person will be the Chair – from Synod 2028.
- It was passed that the role of the Church Book Committee will be extended. Its role was to maintain and update the Book of Order; it now includes seeking nominations for the Board and Committees before each Synod. Hopefully this will encourage more people from around the Province to stand and become involved in this vital work.
- A proposal put by Sr Janet Cooper and seconded by Sr Jane Carter was passed. Thus as a church we are committed to challenging all forms of gender-based violence and to supporting Thursdays in Black.
- A couple of proposals were amended and then passed. For example, the Faith & Ecumenical Relations Committee will be publishing a series of papers for us all to discuss our understanding of Holy Communion. This may lead to a future proposal at the 2028 Synod. There was a proposal passed that, I quote, 'Synod notes with sadness that Fulneck school has closed.' And also 'Synod gives thanks for those who have served God through the life of Fulneck school during the school's 272 years history.'

Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information and I will aim to answer your questions. On a personal note, I enjoyed the experience and found it very interesting and enjoyable. And yes, very tiring.

Sr Mary Holmes

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ORGAN RECITAL: Thursday 3 September: 11.15 in Fulneck Church



Lee Ward and friends continue their programme of monthly organ recitals. 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: 1 October, 5 November and 3 December.

Brass Band Concert: Saturday 26 September: 19.30



All are welcome. The cost is £12 per adult and you can pay on the door. Card and cash will be accepted.

If anyone is able to help on the night on the door or serving the refreshments then please let Allison know.

Journeys of Moravian Women

Time for tea and a talk



You are warmly invited to come along to the BB Hall on **Wednesday 7 October 19.00** to share tea, cake and a talk.

Journeys of Moravian Women is a fascinating topic and I will be looking at women from the past and present. Here is just one example: in the 1700s Rosina Stach lived in a quiet rural village in central Europe, became a refugee, went as a missionary to Greenland and finally worked and died living in America. During the talk I will show slides of many of these places both then and now.

Donations are invited for church funds. I hope that this will be well supported so please invite your friends. Let us aim to have more events, preferably involving cake.

Photograph by M Holmes: the Catholic church in the village where Rosina Stach grew up.

Sr Mary Holmes

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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, 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

Pop-in coffee morning



Would anyone be interested in a monthly coffee morning? A relaxed opportunity to meet and chat over a cup of tea / coffee. Possibly a Tuesday morning each month.

To ensure that this would run smoothly volunteers are needed – please let me know if you are able to help.

Sr Janet Cooper

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HARVEST FESTIVAL



Sunday 27 September is our Harvest Festival service. Please bring along items that can then be donated to Pudsey Community Hub. They always appreciate tins, tea, coffee and breakfast cereals.

FULNECK DRAMATIC SOCIETY: Sun 6 Sept – Wed 9 Sept: 19.30

An evening of short plays, including Tom Stoppard's 'The 15 minute Hamlet' and a play performed on the steps of the ruined Coventry Cathedral in August 1965. The others are on a wedding day and a dark comedy. So, something for everyone.

Tickets are available on the Fulneck Dramatic Society website. Alternatively you may call 079396 813 444 for information and bookings.

Maintenance books

There are now two maintenance books for all non urgent property issues to be recorded. There is one in the Bell Room and one in the downstairs hall in the BB. This will help us keep track of anything that needs doing. It may not be dealt with immediately but means we shouldn't miss anything. There are instructions on each for what to do about anything that is urgent.

FASHION SHOW Saturday 13 March 14.00 2027: Please put the date in your diary – more information over the coming months.

Please send any materials for the October magazine to mary@woodhall28.co.uk by **Friday 25 September**. Please note the magazine will come out a week later than normal due to me & John heading to Scotland for a holiday. Thanks, Mary

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Calendar

August 2026

Thurs 27 09.45 Morning Prayers.

Sun 30 10.30 Café Church in BB Hall.

September 2026

Thurs 3 09.45 Morning Prayers.

11.15 Organ recital.

Sat 5 10.00-16.00 YDC Retreat – The Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield.

Sun 6 14.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion.

Sr Janet Cooper and Br Kenneth Evans.

Thurs 10 09.45 Morning Prayers.

Sat 12 10.00-16.00 Heritage Open Day.

Sun 13 10.30 Morning service. Sr Janet Cooper. Heritage Thanksgiving Service.

Wed 16 19.15 Church Committee. BB Hall.

Thurs 17 09.45 Morning Prayers.

Sun 20 10.30 Morning service. Sr Janet Cooper.

Thurs 24 09.45 Morning Prayers.

Sat 26 19.30 Brass Band Concert. Church.

Sun 27 10.30 Harvest Festival service. Sr Janet Cooper. Harvest Festival.

Refreshments to follow the service in the BB Hall.

Tues 29 19.15 Church Committee. BB Hall.

October 2026

Thurs 1 09.45 Morning Prayers.

11.15 Organ recital.

Sat 3 10.00 Yorkshire District Conference: Lower Wyke.

Sun 4 14.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion.

Sr Janet Cooper and Br Peter Gubi .

Wed 7 19.00 Tea and talk: Journeys of Moravian Women. BB Hall.

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