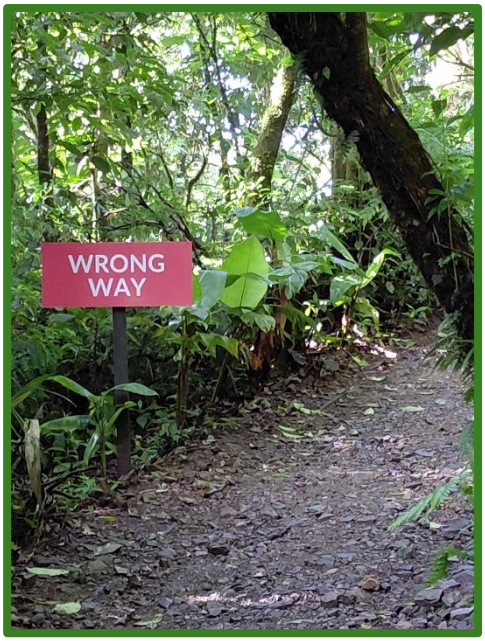
FULNECK CHURCH MAGAZINE

Dec 26/ January 2027



www.fulneck.org.uk
The British Province of the Unitas Fratrum
(Moravian Church),
Registered Charity Number 251211

Minister: Sr Janet Cooper 1 Mayfield Grove: Brighouse: HD6 4EE
Janet.cooper@moravian.org.uk Mobile: 07572204809



Minister's Letter

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends of Fulneck

My son and his family live in Panama and I (along with my husband, Phil) were extremely fortunate just recently to be able to visit them in Panama and to go on a family holiday to the neighbouring country of Costa Rica. Costa Rica is a country I have wanted to visit for a while. It is a very green-looking country with lots of rainforest and also cloud-forest – where the forest is so high up that it gets its moisture from the clouds and some pretty torrential rainfall! As part of our trip, we went on several walks in both the rainforest and the cloud-forest to try to spot some forest-dwelling creatures. The paths in the forests were well-marked and I would say it was pretty impossible to get lost unless you strayed quite deliberately and dangerously off the path into the undergrowth. However, as we walked, I came across a sign on a path which in bold and large writing said: 'Wrong Way.'

This sign made me laugh! I don't know what it says about those of us who speak English visiting a Spanish-speaking country that the only language the information was in, was English!

However, it was at least a very clear sign and consequently unless you decided to be disobedient, you really could not go the wrong way!

Unity in essentials, freedom in non-essentials, love in all things.

Wouldn't it be easy if life was always like this? If, when we needed to make decisions about what we should do, where we should go, how we should live, a helpful, big sign saying 'Wrong Way' appeared in our minds? A sign which would keep us on track.

The Christmas story tells of some men – we don't really know how many – who are often described as kings or wise men who went the wrong way. They were people of faith, people who spent a lot of time looking for signs from God. They had seen a new star appear in the sky and they believed that they had been sent this sign that it indicated that a new King was going to be born. A King who would be very special and would be King of the Jews.

They wanted to visit this King and so they travelled many hundreds of miles to Israel but when they got near, they went the wrong way. It was an understandable mistake. If you want to visit a King, the place to go surely is a palace. A palace in the capital city of Jerusalem.

King Herod, who was the current puppet-king of Israel knew nothing about this new King and was upset (probably an understatement!) by the unwelcome news that a new King had been/would be born. He consulted with the religious leaders of Jerusalem who informed him that this new King would not be born in the royal palace of Jerusalem but in a back-water town called Bethlehem.

Herod sent the wise men off to Bethlehem and as they travelled, they again saw the new star in the sky that they had seen hundreds of miles before in their own land and they were overjoyed. Certain now of where they were going, they followed the star until they came to the place where the new King had been born – in the back room of an inn, not a palace – and worshipped him with gifts fit for a King.

There was a danger that they would again go the wrong way on their way home – Herod wanted them to return to the palace to tell him where this new-born King was, but having been warned by God in a dream not to go back to Jerusalem 'they returned to their country by another road' (Matthew 2:12).

The problem that the wise men had, and the problem that we have when we are trying not to go the wrong way in life is that the right way isn't always obvious or easy. God has

a habit of behaving in an unexpected manner. God has a way of doing things which often go against what seems the reasonable way to do things. Just look at the Christmas story – God saw all the problems that the world had and sent –

- a baby. A helpless, dependant, powerless baby.

But this helpless, dependant, powerless baby has transformed and continues to transform countless lives, countless people. He has enabled many people to choose the right ways in life rather than the wrong ways.

May this baby be the guide of your life this Christmas time, into the New Year and beyond.

Happy Christmas

Yours in Christ

Sr Janet Cooper (Minister of Fulneck)

Christmas comes to Fulneck

A weekend of events- Saturday 12 December and Sunday 13 December

All are welcome

Saturday 12th December – Coffee, Cake, Mince Pies and Christmas Music



10.30am -12 noon in the BB (redbrick building)

Admission free – donations very welcome

Saturday 12th December – Handel's Messiah

4pm in Church

Tickets - £10 on door (card or cash) or from: www.leodisconsort.co.uk

Come and listen to a performance of an iconic Christmas favourite



Sunday 13th December – Toy Service

10.30am in Church

Donations of toys (for St George's Crypt) gratefully received

Sunday 13th December – Nine Lessons and Carols

7pm in Church

A Service of Readings and Carols which unfold the meaning of Christmas



Fulneck Christmas Party



Tuesday 15 December @ 7.15pm BB Hall

Come and join us as we celebrate Christmas as we did when we were little

Party Games

Bring your own party snacks and drinks

Christmas quiz Party hats

And remember to bring some change for our fabulous raffle! (in aid of church funds)



Please see Srs. Ann, Claire, Myra or Ruth for further details

Choral festival

Sunday 29 November: 18.00: Horton Moravian Church

A joyful District event providing a great opportunity to meet friends from the Yorkshire churches and to hear beautiful Christmas music, thanks to the Yorkshire District Moravian choir.

Exploring faith, fellowship and heritage in the Moravian Church

16 December: 19.30: BB Hall (red brick building).

We continue the series of meetings to talk about all things Moravian in a relaxed environment. Please come along with no knowledge, some knowledge or just to ask that question you always wanted to ask.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Every year, people from around the world unite to take action against one of the most urgent and widespread human rights violations — gender-based violence.

At Synod earlier this year our British Province became committed to challenging all forms of gender-based violence.

Each year UN Women organise 16 days of activism between 25 November and 10 December. This year the theme is 'ensure justice, protect survivors.'
I would encourage us each to learn more about this. I will be sharing more material regularly on the MWA Facebook page, so please pop along there and take a look.

Sr Mary

24 day reverse advent calendar

Please support Pudsey Community project by putting an item in the boxes that are in the Church Bell Room. There is a list of items there that you can choose from. Please ensure your donations are in a box by 13 December. Sr Chris Porter will then arrange to take the donations to the project.

Unity in essentials, freedom in non-essentials, love in all things.

Churches Together in Pudsey Coffee Morning

Come along to Pudsey House on Saturday 19th December to support this event from 9.30am-noon. There may even be the opportunity to sing some carols!

If anyone is able to bake some goodies to sell or come for an hour to help out that would be appreciated. Bring your baking to Pudsey House on the morning or drop them off in the BB on the Friday and contact Allison to arrange for them to be picked up from there.



We're having a fashion show!

But only if you can help.

This will be taking place on Saturday 13th March at 2pm and run by Complete Clothing Company. They have clothes from many high street retailers at bargain prices. They will provide all the clothes and run the event on the day. It's a great way to have fun, get some new clothes and very importantly raise much needed funds for church.

We will get a voucher to raffle, can run a tombola and charge a nominal amount for people to come. That's how we make our money! So how can you help?

Before the day we need:-

- Posters created and distributed to as many places we can get them into
- Tickets created, printed and sold
- Volunteers to be models
- Tombola goods

On the day we need:-

- Someone to greet people on the door and take money if necessary
- Someone to run the tombola and raffle
- One or two people to serve simple refreshments
- 6 Models

If you can help with any of this then please let me know. I know some of you will love to be models so please don't be shy! Maybe someone in your family would model for us as well.

The last fashion show they held at Stamford Bridge raised over £400. Can we beat that?

Allison

Calendar

November 2026

Thurs 26	09.45	Morning Prayers.
Sun 29	10.30	Morning service. Sr Janet Cooper.
		Refreshments to follow the service in the BB Hall.
	18.00	Choral Festival. Horton Moravian Church.

December 2026

Thurs 3	09.45	Morning Prayers.
	11.15	Organ recital.
	19.15	Fulneck School alumni Christingle service.
Sun 6	14.30	Lovefeast and Holy Communion.
		Sr Janet Cooper and Br Peter Gubi.
Wed 9	19.15	Church Committee.
Thurs 10	09.45	Morning Prayers.
Sat 12	10.30-12.00	Coffee Morning. BB Hall.
	16.00	Handel's Messiah. Church
Sun 13	10.30.	Toy service. Sr Janet Cooper.
	19.00	Nine lessons and carols. Sr Janet Cooper.
Tues 15	19.15	Christmas Party. BB Hall.
Wed 16	19.30	Exploring faith and fellowship in our Moravian Church. BB Hall.
Thurs 17	09.45	Morning Prayers.
	12.30	Men's Fellowship Lunch. Cleckheaton Golf Club.
Sat 19	9.30-12.00	Churches Together Coffee morning. Pudsey House.
Sun 20	10.30	Morning Service. Sr Janet Cooper.
Wed 23	10.00	Christingle making. Church.
Thurs 24	18.00	Christingle service. Sr Janet Cooper.
Fri 25	10.30	Christmas Day service. Sr Janet Cooper.
Sun 27	10.30	Morning service. Sr Janet Cooper.

Unity in essentials, freedom in non-essentials, love in all things.

January 2027

Sun 3	14.30	Lovefeast & Holy Communion. Sr Janet Cooper & Br Michael Newman.
Thurs 7	09.45	Morning Prayers.
	11.15	Organ recital. Lee Ward.
Sun 10	10.30	Morning service. Sr Janet Cooper.
Wed 13	19.15	Church Committee.
Thurs 14	09.45	Morning Prayers.
Sun 17	10.30	Morning service. Sr Janet Cooper.
18 – 25 Jan		Week of prayer for Christian unity.
Wed 20	19.30	Exploring faith and fellowship in our Moravian Church. BB Hall.
Thurs 21	09.45	Morning Prayers.
Sun 24	10.30	Morning service. Pulpit interchange/ visiting preacher.
Thurs 28	09.45	Morning Prayers.
Sun 31	10.30	Café Church. BB Hall.

Next Church magazine: please let me have any material by Friday 22 January.
Thanks, Mary mary@woodhall28.co.uk

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas, your editor.