



Methodist Women
in Britain

NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2015



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it

Dear Sisters

I wrote my first President's letter for this publication last August and cannot believe how many things have happened since then. For a more detailed summary of the past three months you could go to the blog on the MWiB website. If you do not normally use modern technology, why not ask a younger person to help you see what is on our website? It might just interest them, too, in what we are about!



Plans are well advanced for the residential at Swanwick next April and bookings are now open. We are delighted that Jill Barber will be our keynote speaker and look forward to engaging with her theme of 'Finding our voice: Heritage, Gender and Story'.

The plans for our exhibition at Epworth, 'Transforming the world from the kitchen' are also progressing well, and we are delighted that our researcher, Sarah Braidell, has accepted our invitation to extend her time with us until the end of June 2016. The exhibition will be open to the public on 19 March and opened officially by Dr Jill Barber on 19 May.

I know how hard it is to plan ahead and to even think about next May before Christmas is over, but could I please ask you to consider bringing a coach load of people - women, men, young people - to the concert with Paul Field and Garth Hewitt at Methodist Central Hall Westminster on the afternoon of Saturday 21 May? We are inviting two or three women from the Church of North India to come over to visit us in May and take part in various events, including being present at the concert. As my daughter has said to her friends, where else could you get an afternoon's quality entertainment in central London for just £5? If the hall can be filled with 2000 people on Daffodil Day, surely we can manage 800 to mark the culmination of the Dalit Solidarity work? If you usually attend Daffodil Day perhaps you could make sure that your friends also know about the MWiB concert?

There have been many highlights for me when I review the past quarter. I was especially humbled by the whole experience of being at MWiB Connexional Forum at Swanwick in October and working together with the dedicated and committed team of volunteers who represent MWiB across the country.

I am grateful to Hazel Parsons, who has committed herself to writing our website Prayer for the Week throughout my Presidency and providing a resource which may be used in all sorts of ways. Do take a look at the prayer, image, reading and suggested hymn and see if you might use them in your situation, individually, in small groups, or in your church or other meetings.

Finally, please consider whether you could contribute a prayer to next year's Prayer Handbook. More details are available on the Methodist Church website or by following this link - <http://www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/methodist-prayer-handbook>

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year!

Anne



Our Woman in Fiji - News from a Mission Partner

Psalm 121.8 (NIV) *The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.*

Being watched over can, in some contexts, make us feel spooked and stalked. But never when it's the kindly gaze and the attentive eye of the One in whose image we're made. I'm grateful to be watched, and find I'm often on the lookout myself in

this place and role.

I watch the post for student's written work arriving in brown A5 envelopes from far-flung places and keep my eye on the time it takes for markers to turn assignments around and send them back. Someone will be anxiously watching and waiting for their results at the other end.

I watch the Pacific ocean, two minutes' walk from my office door, and marvel at the relentless rolling of the tides back and forth and back and forth. And then, in conversation with Meeri from Kiribati or Amos from Tuvalu, watch how their brows furrow and tears fill the eye as they wonder aloud what will become of their beloved home islands in the eroding wash of climate change.

I watch the children of College families – you can hardly miss them – squealing with delight as they run free on this balmy, leafy and safe tropical campus, sailing fantasy voyages on palm leaf canoes or shinning in seconds up the breadfruit tree to grab one – probably for football not food.

And, thankfully, I watch my neighbours and they watch me. Not long after coming here, and completely unintentionally, I managed to throw boiling water down my chest and legs when inhaling steam to unblock a nostril. The shock and pain were such that I screamed for help before passing out with one almighty thud onto the bathroom's stone floor. The neighbours weren't watching but they sure heard. Selai appeared in seconds, found me crumpled in a heap and mopped up the blood from where head and floor had met so dramatically. Ana-Latu then took over and manoeuvred a bruised and rapidly blistering mission partner into a taxi and to the clinic where I was sorted out. All fine now. The Lord does indeed watch over my comings and goings, fallings and risings. And evidently has Pacific angels on standby too, just in case the Divine eye is ever off the ball.

Val Ogden pictured far right above.



Empowerment gifts. The MWiB Forum meeting in October agreed to increase the total amount of these annual gifts to £10,000. Funds will go to a training initiative in Lahore Diocese, Pakistan, a rural health worker in Uganda, an internship programme in Nepal and a 'women in leadership' project in South Africa. More details are available from your District representative to Forum.



It has now become possible to register your place with just a deposit. Check out the World Federation website, www.wfmucw.org especially update 21, and book your place. You will then be informed as soon as it is possible to book your hotel room. If you want help to find someone to share a room with, get in touch with Alison Judd, wfmucw@mwib.org.uk and please let her know when you have

registered in order to get further updates from her.

Flights are your own responsibility but Alison may be able to offer advice with the help of World Church Relationships staff. Aim to arrive in Houston in time for checking in before the opening ceremony at 7.00pm on Monday 29 August. Departures are on the morning of Sunday 4 September.

There will be a session at the Swanwick MWiB residential in April for those attending both events. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to meet with women from every part of our global movement, and do please keep raising 'Tenners for Texas' so every Unit is represented.



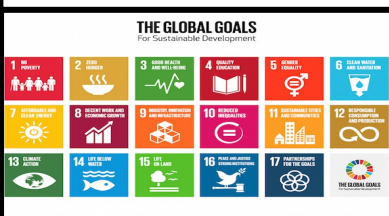


Easter Offering 2016 - "Child, get up!"

'Child, get up!' is the title of the Easter Offering dedication service for 2016. This year the focus of the service is the work being done, supported by the World Mission Fund, to bring 'life in all its fullness' to Dalit women and girls. **Order forms** for all printed materials are available from your District Forum representative or online. Please encourage your circuit to use the service and prepare by reading the Leader's notes carefully. Separate guidelines for treasurers are available. Lent reflections linking with the theme and the Power Point to accompany the service will appear later on the website for download.

This year for the first time a resource linked to the theme for use with children will be available, in the JMA Rainbow magazine.

We have recently been informed that a total of £427,500 was raised for the World Mission Fund through the 2015 Easter Offering. Congratulations and a huge thank you to everyone who contributed!



WORLD FEDERATION DAY 2015 - Northampton

October 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the United Nations and also the 76th year of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW). To celebrate both occasions and to learn more about progress towards the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) inaugurated by the UN in 2000, Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) the British unit of the World Federation, came together in

Northampton for a one day conference.

In line with the threefold aims of MWiB – "encouraging, enabling, and equipping" – the 85 participants were firstly encouraged to think positively about progress made so far towards the original MDGs. Though at first they were widely seen as idealistic wishful-thinking, there have been significant but largely unpublicised improvements in several areas. Meg Munn, Methodist former MP for Sheffield Heeley and now working with groups promoting women's leadership, came to share the findings of the UN 2015 report.

An interactive exhibition allowed participants to discover progress made towards achieving each goal, with contributions among those represented were some well known names – Christian Aid, All We Can, Christians Aware – and some less familiar.

Equipping people in our churches to speak, act, campaign and work for justice is the third strand of MWiB's approach. Many feel uncertain that they know enough to say or do the right thing, or even that what they do say or do will make any difference. To build on the successes and address the weaknesses of the work already begun, the UN has now set 17 new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be reviewed again in 2030. This new endeavour represents a coming together with the understanding that we all work in partnership.

Volunteering Opportunities:

We are looking for volunteers to take up the following roles within MWiB, so please consider prayerfully whether you could undertake one of the following responsibilities:

MWiB President 2017-2019

This is a **four** year commitment beginning in **June 2016** when the person appointed will become Vice-President for one year, followed by 2 years as President and a further year as Vice-President.

Selection will be at MWiB Forum on 20 February 2016 held at Hinsley Hall, Leeds.

Communications Officer 2016-2021 This is a **five** year commitment beginning in September 2016. Interviews will take place in London on 27 January 2016

Full role descriptions and application forms can be downloaded from the website www.mwib.org.uk or obtained by email admin@mwib.org.uk or by telephone: 0300 030 9873. Closing date :04 January 2016

STOP PRESS!

The MWiB pilgrimage to the Holy Land, led by Rev Elizabeth Rundle and Jill Baker, took place in early November; 34 women from all parts of the Connexion enjoyed a very special time together. A full report will appear in the Spring newsletter.

NOTICE BOARD

Forthcoming Connexional MWiB Events

Methodist Women in Britain present

Paul Field in Concert
WITH SPECIAL GUEST GARTH HEWITT

Saturday 21 May 2016 3-5pm

**Methodist Central Hall
Westminster, London**

Admission by ticket (£5)

Doors to Great Hall open at 1.30pm

Refreshments on sale

To order tickets send SAE and cheque payable to: Methodist Women in Britain Concert, PO Box 9298, Loughborough,

LE11 9FY.

Tel. 0300 030 9873

Proceeds from the event will go to the MWiB partnership with the Church of North India, in support of their work to educate and empower Dalit women and girls.



Swanwick Residential Weekend

**Finding our Voice:
Heritage, Gender and Story**
15-17 April 2016

Keynote speaker: Dr Jill Barber, Vice President
of the Methodist Conference.

For further enquiries email swanwick@mwib.org.uk or
phone: 0300 030 1517

MWiB Walking pilgrimages to Lindisfarne (Holy Island)

Registrations are now being taken for 04-09 April 2016. Also expressions of interest in the 08-13 August 2016 Pilgrimage, contact Jill Baker, pilgrimages@mwib.org.uk or download the registration form from the MWiB website: [Registration form 2016](#)

Women's World Day of Prayer – Y Pray conference

A weekend conference for young women based on prayer.

Venue: King's Park Conference Centre, Northampton

Date: 29 Apr–01 May 2016

Keynote Speaker: Revd Professor Ulrike Bechmann

Worship Leader: Helen Pollard

[Booking Form](#)

The form can also be downloaded from the WWDP Website.

MWiB Merchandise

Please check our website <http://www.mwib.org.uk/about-us/how-we-operate/guidelines/itemlist/tag/merchandise.html> and click on the link to MWiB Merchandise to open a document which shows all our current stock. District Representatives will be able to pre-order items for collection at MWiB Forum please send your order to your District Representative. For further information please contact Gillian on finance@mwib.org.uk.

Dalit Resource Packs and Updates can be ordered from Rev. Deborah Kirk, deborah.m.kirk@googlemail.com

www.mwib.org.uk

follow us:



MWiB is a movement within the Methodist Church of Great Britain, Registered Charity No. 1156626

Visit us on <http://www.mwib.org.uk>

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