



Methodist Women in Britain

For women, for justice, for Christ

Newsletter Winter 2020

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

As I write we are all again facing restrictions to our lives. Some of you will have been living with these increased limitations for some time I know, and I am very aware of the strains that can be caused by this. At least for the next few weeks we are all to be treated to the same restrictions, so we must do all that we can to support one another through the challenges, especially those who are isolated and lonely, have limited mobility, or are vulnerable in some other way.

At least the development, and growth of online communications in recent months is one way to maintain contact with others. I, for one, am so grateful that we have these facilities, for without them we would all be much more isolated. Groups such as MWiB Executive would be unable to 'meet' without Zoom, and would be unable to keep things moving along. We have been disappointed that every actual meeting that we have planned has had to be cancelled. This means that Ruth Parrott and I have only ever met face to face when she was interviewed to be the next MWiB President, and that was a brief meeting. However, we have faced the learning curve and the challenges of passing on information online; the trickiest task was perhaps introducing Ruth to the joys of online banking authorisation!

We continue to plan for the future, but increasingly with online or video options. One example is the annual residential weekend at Swanwick. We are determined that there will be an event, whether actual or virtual. See page 2 for information, and look out for further news in mailings and on the website.

2021 will see MWiB reach its tenth anniversary, and we have several things in the pipeline to mark the occasion. These range from some new resources, through a number of events (we live in hope!), to commissioned memorabilia to help celebrate and to inform future Methodists. It is hoped to share in various ways throughout the year, and to include as many people as possible in our tenth anniversary celebrations. MWiB has achieved a good deal in ten years, the motivation for our aims is stronger than ever, and these aims are now embodied in our new strapline—**For women, for justice, for Christ**—which we pray will be memorable in helping a wider audience to understand what we seek to do.

I hope that many of you have been able to use the special service which Carolyn Lawrence wrote while we were unable to hold Easter Offering services this year. You can find it on the website and may like to read it yourself or share with friends or family even if you have not been able to use it as a church service. Find it on the new Creative Spirituality page on our website: www.mwib.org.uk

Lockdown saw my diary filled with crossings out. Events were gradually replaced by online meetings, and these continue to grow as I now have a number of invitations to join online District meetings to give talks. So, I am increasingly able to tell groups about my adventures in Mexico and to help raise awareness about migrancy and human trafficking. This year has brought considerable challenges, but also opportunities. Perhaps the greatest challenges are in reviewing how we have carried out our stated missions in the past, and looking at those experiences with fresh eyes, and renewed vision.

I am sure God is in all of our ups and downs, our meetings, mixings and isolations. He will guide us through in his good time.

I send my best wishes to you all and pray that God will hold each of you in the palm of his hand, supporting, comforting and guiding.

With my good wishes,

Hilary





Together, with Hope on the Way

Residential Weekend at The Hayes, Swanwick

Friday 16th–Sunday 18th April 2021

The keynote speaker for the weekend will be Sister Imelda Poole, President of the Mary Ward Loreto Foundation, an organisation working to eradicate sexual and labour exploitation, slavery, and organ harvesting. Sister Imelda will focus on her organisation's mission against human trafficking in Albania, the UK, and across Europe, with particular reference to the exploitation of women and children. This of course ties in with MWiB President Hilary Evans's theme of migration and trafficking, and her own experience of visiting the church on the Mexico-US border.

We hope Sister Imelda will be able to join us in person, but we are also making contingency plans, including input via video or live link, as well as live-streaming for those unable to attend, and pre-prepared video in case we are unable to meet due to Covid restrictions. It is a steep learning curve, but we hope to be able to offer something for everyone!

Because of the uncertainty around ongoing restrictions, bookings will open later than usual for this event:

**Information and booking forms will be available on 4th January 2021
via mailing, website, and social media.**

As you can imagine, the event will need to be organised and run somewhat differently this time, and this later booking schedule will enable us not only to put in place all the measures needed to make our time together as Covid-secure as possible, but also to send out the most up to date and accurate information we can.

We look forward to you joining us in April—either in person, or online—Together, with Hope on the Way.

Tribute to Margaret Williams

I was deeply saddened to hear of the untimely death of Margaret Williams in October. Gillian Pengelly, a close friend of Margaret's for many years, has written a full obituary for the website. By contrast, I only knew Margaret for the time we worked together from 2011 to 2014, but I would like to pay tribute to the invaluable contribution she made to the establishment of Methodist Women in Britain as the successor to Women's Network.

She was the administrator for the women's movement from 2009 to December 2014, a period of huge change. She covered a wide range of work, substantially finance-related, but also supported the executive officers with communications, newsletters and Annual Reports, and handled the incoming post and phone calls. She worked hard to disentangle both the finances and the database of MWiB from those of the Connexional Team. Margaret was also the registrar for the annual residential weekend, and I will always remember her incredible recall of the detail of the complex Swanwick site (which continued to fox me until I left office!), the number of people who could be accommodated in every room, and everyone's dietary requirements.

Margaret and I laughed many a time over the fact that people very often mistook us for each other. Yes, we were both tall bespectacled women, of a similar age, but there, we thought, the similarities ended. Yet woman after woman arriving at Swanwick or other connexional events, would greet us warmly by (the other's!) name and ask after (the other's) family, district or job.

Margaret handled the transfer of her duties with great thoroughness and with grace and patience, and continued with voluntary roles in MWiB in her circuit and district after that. I feel an extract from her letter of resignation as she prepared to retire is a fitting end to this piece. She wrote in August 2014:

"MWiB has achieved a great deal... in the time I have been employed... and I am very pleased to have been able to play a part in the birth of such a vibrant and flourishing movement of women".

Linda Crossley, MWiB President 2013-2015.



EXECUTIVE MEETINGS: 18th November 2020 and 13th January 2021

FORUM MEETINGS: 12th–14th February and 17th–19th September 2021

If you have any issues to raise or questions to ask, please speak to your Forum Rep.



Meet a Mission Partner

Our Woman in Togo

Joanne Tetley: Making the most of Life in all its Fullness

We are a Mission Partner family in the West African country of Togo, a relatively safe, politically stable francophone nation which has also been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. At 1st October 2020, Togo has reported 347 active cases, 1,457 confirmed cases, 1,079 cured cases and 31 deaths. Consequently, nationwide measures—mandatory wearing of masks in public (including when car sharing), hand washing prior to entering public buildings, and social distancing practices—are strictly enforced.

My current role involves working alongside the Development Department, coordinating the church's newly formed Health team to administer a 'Training of Trainers' public health education program for the church community. The aim of our weekly team meeting of dedicated volunteers is to achieve changes which will eventually be reflected in reducing the numbers of national Covid-19 cases.

The juggling skills needed to do the school run, manage the household and nurture a family have become easier when our family (of two teenagers and an equally busy spouse) works like a team. Having served on the mission field for over ten years, in three West African countries, this 'Woman in West Africa' and her kin have been privileged and blessed to be a part of the Methodist world church family.

Joanne

You can find information and prayers from Togo on Day 3 in the 2020–2021 Methodist Prayer Handbook, *The Earth is the Lord's*.



Training the Trainers at Bethesda Church



The Tetley Family

The Methodist Church-wide Christmas campaign

#GodIsWithUs

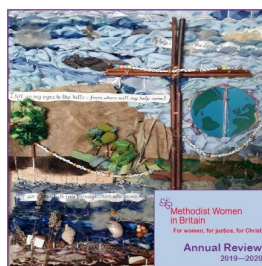
aims to help Methodist people reach out to others with the Christmas message of Emmanuel, God with us, and a range of resources is being produced to help you, your church and your community engage with the campaign.

Working in partnership with MWiB, All We Can, JPIT, Action for Children, Methodist Homes, and others, the Methodist Church has collected together stories of how individuals have walked with God in this extraordinary year. These stories will be shared on both the Methodist Church's and MWiB's website and social media, daily throughout Advent.

A Christmas Service featuring carols and readings will be available to download and can be ordered free of charge on CD from www.methodistpublishing.org.uk (The CD will be distributed in mid-December.)

Join members of the Connexional Team and others on YouTube as they explore mission at Christmas: search #GodIsWithUs – Christmas Webinar.

For more information and resources about #GodIsWithUs, go to www.methodist.org.uk/christmas



*** NEW ***

Annual Review 2019–2020

Now available to download from:
www.mwib.org.uk

If you would like hard copies of the Review, please email your name, postal address, and the number of copies required, to: communications@mwib.org.uk

Reviews, post and packing are free, but if you wish to make a donation to MWiB, you can do so using the 'Donate' button on the Home Page of our website.

The Extraordinary Gift of Hope

All We Can and MWiB have produced a series of Advent Reflections giving a glimpse into the work done by both organisations to tackle issues of social justice and transform the lives of people around the world.

The Advent Reflections are due to be published in full in the Methodist Recorder (27th November), and will appear weekly on the MWiB website.



Tenth Anniversary Bunting Project

As part of our tenth anniversary celebrations, we are celebrating MWiB's social justice legacy in a creative way—with a giant string of 'bunting'!

The idea is for each District to design and create a fabric panel to illustrate a partnership or project that the District MWiB has been involved in during the last ten years, that supports the aims of MWiB towards social justice and the empowerment of women (e.g. CLEM, trafficking, Water Aid, educational and training projects, dementia, and many more).

Panels will be collected and attached to a border to create a long length of bunting, which will be taken to events including Swanwick Residential, Methodist Conference, and the World Assembly in Gothenburg in 2022, and around the Districts, to help celebrate our tenth anniversary.

Designs can be literal, figurative or abstract, with or without lettering, worked by stitching, collage, fabric painting—there are no restrictions, except that we need to be able to hang panels outdoors as well as indoors, so it needs to be able to survive a good wetting!

We would like **each District to create at least one panel**, but it would be lovely to have many more.

- ~ You will need two pieces of background fabric 'A4' size *plus* 1cm for turnings all round.
- ~ Cotton or polycotton are best (but others are fine), in MWiB logo colours (i.e. dark purple or pink-red).
- ~ You could use iron-on light weight interfacing on one or both pieces to stiffen and help it hang straight.
- ~ Complete your design on one or both sides (can be the same design on both sides, or two different designs).
- ~ With design(s) facing inwards stitch the two pieces of fabric together 1cm from the edge, so the finished panel will be A4 size, leaving a gap of around 10cm on the fourth side for turning right side out.
- ~ Turn right side out, and carefully hand stitch the gap closed, and press the edges. (You might also want to edge-stitch around the panel, about 1-2 millimetres from the pressed edges.)

Send completed panel(s) (by 31st January 2021) to:

MWiB, c/o Mankotta, Belbins, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 0PE

Christmas activities and resources from our partners All We Can and Action for Children

Let's make this Christmas extraordinary with All We Can's

Nativity—An Extraordinary Christmas

available as a video or as a script to use in your online church services over the coming weeks.

Or you might like to join us for the

Big Church Sing—Christmas Special

live on YouTube on Sunday 29th November at 4.00pm

Find out more and download additional devotional resources for the season at allwecan.org.uk/nativity



You can buy an Extraordinary Gift for your loved ones this Christmas season and help transform the lives of some of the world's poorest communities.

Let's celebrate. Let's give. And let's change lives together—
start your shopping at allwecan.org.uk/Christmas



Action for Children's
Starry Night
Tuesday 8 December 2020

A virtual carol concert bringing the magic of Christmas into your home.

To buy your ticket now (£10 per household), visit:
starry-night.co.uk



Virtual Christmas carols

On Tuesday 8th December, join Action for Children and families across the UK for an evening of Christmas carols, fun and festive cheer hosted by Jon Snow (Channel 4 News).

Tickets are £10 per household and will give you access to exclusive entertainment, readings, and performances from celebrities including Angellica Bell and *Call the Midwife's* Jenny Agutter—and all from the comfort of your own home!

For tickets, go to:
www.starry-night.co.uk

MWiB Merchandise and Resources

With fewer opportunities to go shopping, and Christmas on the horizon, I thought it might be a good time to feature our MWiB merchandise and resources. Postage is free, and items can be ordered from Resources Officer Elaine Banks at resources@mwib.org.uk (please do not use the website link—it's not working at the moment).

 <p>Candle: large £8.00 small £4.00</p>	 <p>Notebook: £3.00 Ballpoint pen: £1.00</p>	 <p>Bamboo cup: Reusable £5.60</p>
 <p>Pulpit fall: £20.00 Table runner: £25.00</p>	 <p>Reusable bag: Folds into its own pocket £2.50</p>	 <p>Scarf: Grey-green £8.50</p>
 <p>Lanyard: plain £1.50 + plastic pocket £1.75</p>	 <p>Butterfly notecards: Design 1—red Design 2—blue Pack 5 £3.00</p>	 <p>Compact mirror: £1.50</p>
 <p>Polo shirt: Small and X-Small only £9.50</p>	 <p>Lapel badge: £2.00</p>	 <p>Thursdays in Black badges: Large and small £0.50</p>
 <p>Shoreline Conversations resource packs: Journeying Spiritually with Children; Aloneness; Aloneness Large Print All reduced to £2.60</p>	 <p>Swarovski jewellery: Sterling silver/silver plate Prices range from £13.50 –£31.00 Contact Resources Officer for images of different designs available</p>	 <p>Swarovski bookmarks: Beaded £13.00 Cross £14.00 Presentation box £1.00</p>
<p>Thursdays in Black t-shirts: £14.50 order directly from www.notfromape.co.uk</p> 		<p>Coming soon: MWiB and Thursdays in Black fleeces</p>



Could this be you?

We will soon be inviting applications for the following roles:

MWiB Communications Officer 2021–2026

A five year commitment, beginning 1st September 2021. The role involves production of material for mailings and events, technical and other support for Forum and Executive, and oversight of website and social media.

Helen Kim Memorial Scholar 2022–2026

An opportunity for a woman (aged 18–30 at commencement of the role) to receive training in leadership skills, to focus on issues of social justice, and to engage with younger women in the church and the world.

Full role descriptions and application forms will be available in January 2021
on the website: www.mwib.org.uk or by email: admin@mwib.org.uk or by telephone: 0300 030 9873

Forthcoming Events



World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

Just Living: Being Faithful with God's Resources

*(based on SDG 12: Responsible
consumption and production)*

World Federation Day Event
Saturday 23rd October 2021



Central Methodist Church,
Chippenham, Wiltshire

Save the date! Further information
and booking details to come

14th World Assembly Go and bear fruit— fruit that will last



2nd –7th August 2022

Gothia Towers Hotel,
Gothenburg, Sweden

Booking details available
autumn 2021

Together, with Hope on the Way



Swanwick Residential Weekend
Friday 16th—Sunday 18th April 2021

With keynote speaker
Sister Imelda Poole

Bookings open January 2021
See page 2 for further details



Methodist Women
in Britain 2011-2021

Tenth Anniversary Celebration Events

We are planning lots of activities and events throughout 2021
to celebrate our tenth anniversary. So far, these include:

March–October 2021	'For women, for justice, for Christ' Exhibition at Epworth Old Rectory
Saturday 14th May	Creativity Day in Sheffield
24th June–1st July	Methodist Conference, including MWiB Fringe Event <i>[date tbc]</i>
August <i>[date tbc]</i>	Garden Party event at Epworth

Note the dates, and join us as we celebrate together!

Contact us:

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Website: <http://www.mwib.org.uk>
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