



# For the beauty of the earth we praise you!

### *Dear Sisters*

I am writing this letter at the end of May, after a very busy and significant period for MWiB. Apart from the usual round of meetings and speaking engagements around the Connexion, these last two months have contained some very important events and experiences.

Dr Jill Barber, Vice President of the Methodist Conference, was our speaker in April for the Swanwick weekend and we were challenged and encouraged by her keynote addresses and also by a wide range of workshops. As usual we were full to capacity as we welcomed 250 women to this annual residential event.

Jill was with us again in May at Epworth Old Rectory to open the MWiB exhibition, Transforming the World from the Kitchen, put together largely by our researcher, Sarah Braisdell. Around 80 people travelled to celebrate the culmination of this partnership – the rain held off and we were wonderfully hosted by the local team from Epworth.

Two days later 450 people gathered in Methodist Central Hall Westminster for a concert by Paul Field and Garth Hewitt to mark the culmination of 5 years supporting the Dalit people through our partnership with the Church of North India. Paul and Garth entertained us, but also challenged us to be aware of some of the very serious issues currently facing our world.

We were pleased to have two women from the Church of North India present at both of these events. Rev Meena Bhati and Ms Priya Masih have been hosted in various parts of the Connexion and have shared their stories with many of us during their visit.

In the last week of May I flew out to Greece with eleven other women from England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland to witness at first hand the situation for some of the refugees currently in that country. The visit was organised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and we represented nine denominations of the Christian church. We met with paid workers and volunteers who are attempting passionately and tirelessly to bring relief and hope into that situation. We were particularly humbled by the selfless giving of so many of the Greek people, who are themselves living in austere conditions. I have already begun sharing the stories of my conversations with Syrian families, whose lives have been overturned and changed dramatically by this crisis. We continue to seek the best way, as Methodist Women in Britain, to respond to this ongoing crisis situation.



I can hardly believe that I am almost halfway through my four year commitment. This newsletter contains reflections by outgoing members of the executive, to whom I am indebted for their friendship and forbearance over the past two years. We look forward to celebrating the contribution of all outgoing Forum members at the Conference Fringe Event at Methodist Central Hall Westminster on Monday 4 July 2016 at 7pm. Please contact [admin@mwib.org.uk](mailto:admin@mwib.org.uk) if you would like to apply for a ticket to this event.

With every blessing

*Anne*

## Farewells

At the MWiB Fringe event at Methodist conference we will say farewell to 3 members of the MWiB Executive, Alison Judd, Linda Crossley and Liz Marriott. Alison and Liz have been on the Executive since it was formed as a shadow executive in the 12 months prior to the launch of MWiB and Linda joined as one of the initial Forum members. They have each reflected on their terms of office below:

**Alison writes:** I feel privileged to have been part of the initial executive of MWiB, led by Jill Baker as our first President, ably followed by Linda and Anne. I am thankful that during my term as Area Officer, MWiB has played a significant role as the British Unit of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, co-hosting a successful Area Seminar in Italy, developing stronger links with women in Ireland and Europe: Continental and supporting women in many other Units through prayers and generous giving. Our partnership with the World Church Relationships team is crucial and our commitment is reflected in the work that goes into the preparation of the annual Easter Offering materials. I have learned so much during these last five years; about the world, about God, about myself. I shall always be grateful for this opportunity to participate in God's mission through MWiB.

**Linda writes:** Serving on the MWiB executive has changed my life hugely for the better. To have visited India, built the partnership with the Church of North India, taken part in the European Seminar of the World Federation, launched the Dementia Friendly Church resource pack, and helped to lead the movement through a period we can all rightly be proud of has been a privilege I can scarcely believe even now. I thank God, and every one of you who has supported me, for it.

**Liz writes:** Where have the last 5 years gone? Being part of the MWiB Executive has given me many wonderful opportunities to try things I would never have thought of. I discovered many things about myself that I hope to be able to develop further as I move on to new adventures. I will still be part of MWiB as Resources Officer, but hope to take some time to discover what else God has in store for me. Thank you all for your support over the last few years. I hope you enjoy this my last newsletter for you.

We thank Alison, Linda and Liz for their contributions over their terms of office and send them our prayers and blessings as they journey on to new adventures and experiences.



### 13<sup>th</sup> World Assembly 29 August – 3 September 2016

There are now more than 700 women from around the world registered to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> World Assembly in Houston, including 55 from Britain and Ireland so our Area will be well-represented. Rachel Allison will join the

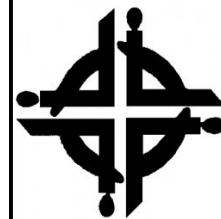
Helen Kim Memorial Scholars programme, for which Janice Clark is Chaplain. Jenny Pathamarajah will contribute to the Assembly as Music Director, Jackie Smith will lead a workshop and Alison Judd will lead the Memorial Service. Business meetings will be held on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, Anne Browse and Liz Marriott having voting rights as our British Unit representatives. Louise Wilson from Ireland and Carolyn Lawrence from Britain will be commissioned as Area President and Vice President on the Friday evening, attending their first World Executive meeting on the Sunday.

Please pray for all involved in the Assembly, as we each respond to the theme 'Chosen people; called to proclaim.'

Further information, including recent progress reports from Alison, can be found on our MWiB website.



## Volunteering Opportunity



We congratulate Liz Burroughs on her appointment as Chairperson of the WWDP Committee. This appointment means that there is now a new volunteering opportunity for a Methodist Representative to Women's World Day of Prayer committee. As well as representing the Methodist Church on the WWDP committee, the successful candidate will also be a member of the MWiB Forum, communicating information between the two organisations.

For further information, application form and full job description please email: [admin@mwib.org.uk](mailto:admin@mwib.org.uk)

The closing date for applications will be published on the MWiB website towards the end of June.

### Our woman in Sri Lanka - News from a Mission Partner

I am serving as a Minister with the English congregation of the Kollipitya Methodist Church in Colombo, Sri Lanka as a Mission Partner. Apart from the many varied ministries in the life of the church, I have been involved in a number of ways 'restoring lives' by walking gently alongside Christian brothers and sisters who are refugees and asylum seekers from Pakistan. This has included baptising a baby, burying a three week old baby and this week supporting a mother who had an emergency Caesarian and premature



baby. We provide a monthly Urdu service followed by lunch and fellowship. I am leading an Alpha 'restored lives' programme for those recovering from divorce and separation. This is a first in a shame - based culture to reach out to those recovering from broken relationships. The last few days I have been involved with the church collecting dry rations, water, clothes, medication etc, for flood relief victims and distributing to those in great need, as they seek to restore their lives from the disaster they have experienced. I thank God for the many ways people are restored by his grace.

**Rev Angleen Keizer**



Sandra Goodwin



Judith Simms

### Pray for those taking up new roles

We pray for those who will be taking up positions on the MWiB Executive and Forum during the summer. Sandra becomes Vice President from July. Carolyn, WFM&UCW Area Officer; Judith, Communications Officer; Rachel, the Helen Kim Memorial Scholar, all from September, following the 13th World Assembly in Houston, Texas.

We pray also for those joining Forum as District representatives, that God may guide and bless them. .



Carolyn Lawrence



Rachel Allison

# NOTICE BOARD

## Forthcoming Connexional MWiB Events

### World Federation Day

Saturday 29th October 2016, 10am-4pm

## A Taste of Texas

This event is open to anyone (women and men) interested in finding out more about the World Assembly

**Rowbarton Methodist Church**  
**Greenway Road**  
**Taunton**  
**TA2 6LA**

Lunch and drinks will be provided and a donation towards the cost of the event is invited (approximately £10)

Further details at [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)



### Conference Fringe Event - 7:00-9:00 pm 4 July 2016

Aldersgate Room, Methodist Central Hall, Westminster.

There is a limit of 150 places in the venue and so tickets must be booked by emailing

[WCR.admin@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:WCR.admin@methodistchurch.org.uk) stating vegetarian or any other dietary requirements. The evening will begin with a two course hot buffet (main and desert).

Please state also whether you are a Conference Representative or not.

### Training for New Forum/Executive members:

16 July 2016 - 11:00—16:00

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

### Creativity Day - 20 May 2017

Venue : Bold St Methodist Church, Warrington

Theme: Mystery

Led by : Mark Davis from Shoreline Conversations

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Changes from summer 2016:

WFM&UCW Officer:	Carolyn Lawrence	<a href="mailto:wfmucw@mwib.org.uk">wfmucw@mwib.org.uk</a>
Vice President:	Sandra Goodwin	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@mwib.org.uk">vicepresident@mwib.org.uk</a>
Communications Officer:	Judith Simms	<a href="mailto:communications@mwib.org.uk">communications@mwib.org.uk</a>

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Note: Sandra's term of office starts in July and Carolyn and Judith's from September