



Methodist Women
in Britain

Newsletter

Autumn 2016



Chosen People, called to Proclaim

Dear Sisters

When I wrote at the end of May it felt as though things had been busy, but since then much has continued to unfold in the MWiB world! I will try to capture here something of the flavour of these last few months.

In June I spoke in Huddersfield, Sheffield, Leeds and Lincolnshire Districts, and then chaired a special executive meeting, comprising all of the incoming and outgoing officers. We celebrated the past, gave thanks for the present and looked to the future, ably facilitated by Lynne Ling, using the Ketso resource to bring our ideas together.

During Refugee Week I returned to the school where I had worked until July 2014 and led assemblies, sharing my experiences and the insights gained in Greece in May.

Methodist Conference was held this year in London, with meetings in Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. I was deeply challenged by the words of the prophet Micah which threaded their way throughout the week: do justice, love kindness, walk humbly. As we conferred inside, campaigners protested outside.

At our Conference fringe event, hosted jointly with the World Church, we thanked those leaving the MWiB Exec and Forum and welcomed those joining. We also presented the prizes for the writing competition in memory of Revd Julie Hulme and heard the excellent winning entries, sensitively read by Revd Jenny Pathmarajah, one of the competition judges.

One of the highlights of Methodist Conference was the election of Jill Baker to the role of Vice President for 2017-2018, alongside Revd Loraine Mellor as President. We send Jill our warmest congratulations and assurance of our prayers.

In mid-July we also held our first induction training day for new Forum members, which was well-received and will be repeated each year as there is need.

August was blissfully quiet and I took the opportunity to reflect on the past two years and prepare for the next. At the end of August almost 60 women from the Britain and Ireland Unit of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women set off for Houston, Texas for the 13th World Assembly. Undoubtedly the highlight for me was the election of Alison Judd to the role of World President of the Federation. We assure Alison, too, of our prayerful support as she embarks on this new and brave adventure.

The new Connexional year has begun and I look forward to sharing the continuing story of Methodist Women in Britain with you, perhaps at the World Federation Day in Taunton in October.



World President, Vice President and Secretary for 2016-2021

May the Lord bless you and keep you; may he make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; may he lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Anne

Reflections on 13th World Assembly in Houston:

A Chosen People Called to Proclaim

From 29 August to 3 September approximately 800 women from around the world met at the Hilton Americas Hotel in Houston, Texas for the 13th World Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

Those of us who were able to attend would like to bring a flavour of the World Assembly back to the UK so to celebrate World Federation Day; we are holding a "Taste of Texas" day.



World and Area Officers 2016-2021

The programme for the day will include worship, bible study and workshops similar to those that took place at the Assembly, with contributions from some of those who attended the event, including our new World Federation President, Alison Judd.

Would like to share in some of the atmosphere from the World Assembly? Why not join us for our World Federation Day on 29 October 2016 at Rowbarton Methodist Church in Taunton?

As well as bringing a flavour of the World Assembly in Houston, we will share the vision for the next Quinquennium.

Please book by 23 October 2016 - booking form can be downloaded from MWiB Website or by emailing: resources@mwib.org.uk



Thursdays in Black at the World Assembly



Worship Focus at the World Assembly

MWiB Writing Competition – From Deep Within

The winner and runner-up in the writing competition organised by MWiB in memory and honour of Julie Hulme were announced at a fringe event of Methodist Conference in London on the evening of Monday 4 July.

From 187 entries the judges unanimously selected *How Beautiful*, a meditation on a verse from Isaiah 52 by Sue Whalley of Knaresborough as winner of the £150 first prize. The judges said: 'this meditation takes a biblical image and unpacks it, bringing it up to date. It reflects the social concerns of MWiB and is worthy of Isaiah'.

The runner-up prize of £50 was presented to Tricia Rayner of Penketh near Warrington for her poem *Easter Morning 6am* which compared the physical experience of dawn with the inner dawning of understanding as faith is born.

Five other entries were highly commended. They were:

Deep Calls to Deep by Hannah Belsham

Come as You Are by Rosemary Wakelin

December Blossom by Ken Stokes

I Used to Sing by Veronica Bright

asterisk by David Markay

Copyright remains with the writers in each case. Please contact [Lynne Ling](mailto:Lynne.Ling@mwib.org.uk) for further details.

Volunteering Opportunity



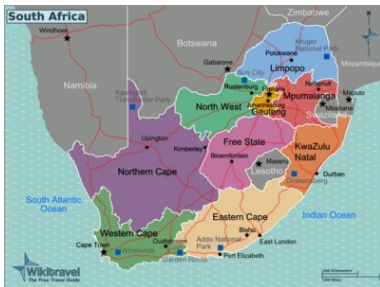
Do you enjoy the Annual Women's World Day of Prayer Service (WWDP)?

There is now a 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 become a member of the MWiB Forum, communicating information between the two organisations.

If this sparks your imagination and you would like further information, application form and full job description please email: admin@mwib.org.uk

The closing date for applications is 30 November 2016 and interviews will be held in January.



Our woman in South Africa - News from a Mission Partner

Sewing is not my thing. Here in Germiston where we live you can often see a gentleman sat on the edge of the pavement with a sewing machine and, recently, I asked him to sew a hole in my jeans. He did a great job but I made the assumption that the colour of cotton would match the garment! Life in another culture is neither right nor wrong, but it is different.

Sewing is a great image for my ministry despite my lack of ability in this field. If it is done well sewing brings things together, usually pieces of fabric.

I am involved in a programme for women in leadership 'Magnify' which is based on Mary's song of praise in Luke's gospel, 'My soul magnifies the Lord'. The programme brings women together and the diversity is seen across generation, culture, theology ethnicity and denominations. The vision is to offer this programme to each of the 12 Districts within the Methodist Connexion of Southern Africa by 2020.

Food is also an important part of my ministry and alongside Steve, my husband, we are intentional in bringing people together around our meal table. We aim for more meals and less meetings! At a recent gathering we shared conversations in German, Shona, Xhosa and English. We feel privileged to offer and receive hospitality and delight at the weaving of conversations and new threads of possibility.

Jane

Jane Day is a Baptist Minister and serving as a Mission Partner with the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. She lives in Germiston with her husband Steve who is a Methodist Minister.



Resources

As an effort to make MWiB Resources more readily available, the position of Resources Officer has been established, Liz Marriott has agreed to take on this role, which will operate as follows:

Orders for MWiB merchandise and resources can be sent to Liz at the following email address: resources@mwib.org.uk or by post to the MWiB PO Box address on the back page of this newsletter.

It has been agreed that District Resources Officers can order stock on a post free basis, this will be for an initial trial period, to be reviewed after the first 12 months.

Please use the order form on the MWiB website if paying by bank transfer please supply confirmation of payment with your order.

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



Swanwick 2017 - 31 March - 02 April 2017

Keynote Speaker: Bishop Rosemarie Wenner from Germany

Theme: **"Willkommen, bienvenue, welcome"**

Bookings open: 1 November 2016

Booking forms will be sent out with the Winter Mailing or be available from the MWiB Website.

Creativity Day - 20 May 2017

Venue : Bold St Methodist Church, Warrington

Theme: Leaving the familiar (subject to confirmation)

Led by : Mark Davis from Shoreline Conversations

The Five-Day Community for Spiritual Formation presents

Living lightly in today's world

Sunday 28th May – Friday 2nd June 2017

Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, Northern Ireland

To find out more or request a registration form

Contact: Jill Baker (Registrar) By telephone: 0141 959 7951

email: fivedaycsf@btinternet.com

or visit <https://5daycommunity.com//>

www.mwib.org.uk

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