

‘From the President’

Greetings to all our readers!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all who came along to the MWiB Conference Fringe Event at the end of June this year, especially to those who travelled quite a distance to be there to participate in my commissioning service. I felt very blessed to have the support of friends old and new.



On the Sunday after Conference I too was offering support in a very different way. Catching an early train, I travelled to Notting Hill to join in worship, share concerns, and offer MWiB support to the local Methodist Church [pictured left] in their process of setting up counselling services in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower disaster. I found it both moving and heartening to see how the church community were working together to find solutions to the challenges they face.

The summer break began for David and me as we hosted a garden party for two of our local ladies' groups. As you can see from the picture below, the weather was kind to us and it was good to have the opportunity to relax and chat with friends.

Back to business as usual on July 8th, as the Exec team met in London, along with our newest District Forum Representatives, for the annual 'new reps' training day. This day enables new members to get to know each other, share concerns, and learn about their responsibilities.

Effective communications are key to the efficient working of any large organisation and MWiB is no exception. Our Forum reps are not only the trustees of MWiB, but the main points of contact for Circuits within their District. The size and geographical shape of many of our Districts make communication and the opportunity to meet together at District level very challenging and yet I never cease to be amazed at what is achieved!

I'm really looking forward to travelling around individual Churches, Circuits and Districts during my term of office. Meeting together to read and reflect, to pray, to give thanks and to act—four of the five 'Day by Day' spiritual foods (President and Vice President of Conference theme for the year)—are things that we women are good at when we meet together. The fifth, to keep silence, may be more of a challenge, but we do have quiet days and retreats too!

Thank you all for the things you are already doing in so many ways across the Connexion, and I look forward to working together with you all over the next two years.

May God bless you and keep you

Sandra





Exciting volunteer opportunities!

We are inviting applications for the roles of

MWiB President 2019–2021:

a four year commitment beginning in June 2018
(one year as Vice-President, two years as President,
and a further year as Vice-President).

[Closing date for applications: 5th January 2018]

and

Finance Officer 2018–2023:

a five year commitment beginning in September 2018.

[Closing date for applications: 30th November 2017]

Full role descriptions and application forms are now available:

website: www.mwib.org.uk
email: admin@mwib.org.uk
post: PO Box 9298, Loughborough, LE11 9FY
telephone: 0300 030 9873

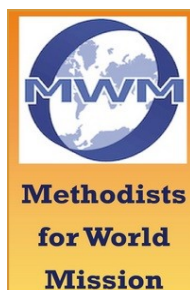


Did you know...

that there is a monthly 'Call to Pray' on the World Federation website, as well as other news from around the World Federation Areas? Check it out at:

www.wfmucw.org

In our last newsletter, Carolyn Lawrence reported on the MWM conference, 'Moving People, Moving Stories'. Next year's World Mission Conference takes as its theme:



Africa: Gospel and Culture

The Church is growing in Africa despite the challenges it encounters. How has culture permeated the living out of the Gospel in Africa? Come and explore African theology, and social and economic issues, through stories, art, music and worship.

The conference takes place at The Hayes, Swanwick, on 1st–3rd June 2018.

For more information,
visit the MWM website: www.mwm.org.uk,
or email: mwmsec@gmail.com

World Church Speakers

are available to come to your church to share their unique, first-hand experience of the church overseas.



The World Church Relationships team are no longer publishing speakers' contact details, but if you would like to invite a speaker to your church or group, please contact Rosie or Simon by email at:

wcr.admin@methodistchurch.org.uk



Inspire your church to
'Chirp for Joy'
at God's creation, and
make a difference through
All We Can's Harvest Appeal!



You can download resources from their website:
www.allwecan.org.uk/harvest

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS: 22nd November 2017 and 10th January 2018

FORUM MEETINGS: 30th September–1st October 2017 and 17th–18th February 2018

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

LEAVING THE FAMILIAR CREATIVITY DAY



On a very wet Saturday in May, more than 40 women met at the Quaker Meeting House in Liverpool for our 2017 Creativity Day, organised jointly by MWiB and Shoreline Conversations. Anne Browse introduced us to the theme of 'Leaving the Familiar', and outlined the practicalities of the day, before we dispersed to our chosen activities.

One group visited the Roman Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral, currently celebrating its 50th anniversary year, and the Lutyens Crypt, described as 'one of the city's greatest architectural gems, a secret spiritual space', while another walked the short distance to the Albert Dock, with its variety of museums and galleries, including the Museum of Liverpool, the Tate Liverpool gallery, and the International Slavery Museum. A third group went out armed with their cameras to explore and capture the spirit of the city, and another visited Somewhere Else, the 'bread church', to experience a different way of being church by baking bread and sharing conversation. Two further workshops had been planned—seeking Street Wisdom on the city's streets by a particular kind of mindfulness, and ways of facilitating spiritual conversation in both sacred and secular places—but both were cancelled as not enough people had signed up for them.



Bread-making and conversation
at 'Somewhere Else'

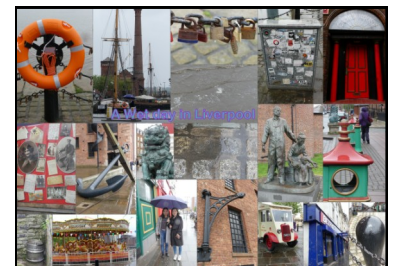
At lunchtime we returned to the Quaker Meeting House where (surrounded by drip-drying coats and wet umbrellas!) we enjoyed very welcome hot drinks and a lovely lunch which included the very fresh bread rolls made by the group who had visited Somewhere Else that morning—quite a treat!

In the afternoon there was opportunity to reflect on our morning experience in a variety of ways: there were art and craft materials available, a creative writing workshop, and space to simply sit and reflect alone or in conversation with others, while those who had been out taking photographs in the morning worked together to create a photo-collage of images *[pictured below]*.

At the end of the afternoon, we gathered together again, and participants shared with the whole group some reflections on their experience of the morning and the fruits of the afternoon activities. The day then closed with worship, during which we made a large black paper chain for our prayers of intercession, sitting in silence as each of us added our own link of black paper in remembrance of and prayer for those in chains of all kinds in our world today.

The theme of 'Leaving the Familiar' was made very real for everyone participating in the day, as we left the familiar and comfortable confines of a church building and stepped out into what was, for most of us, an unfamiliar city, into very different church architecture, into new ways of being church, into the very real stories of people past and present.

Jude Simms



To be a pilgrim...



A weekend conference open to all at Cliff College, 6-8 April 2018

- What does **pilgrimage** have to offer Christians and the Church today?
- What might be distinctive about Methodist **pilgrimage**?
- Does **pilgrimage** have to involve a journey?
- Can **pilgrimage** be mission?

These and other questions will be explored through worship, workshops, discussion and learning. There will be a chance to explore the Cliff College grounds and surrounding countryside, as well as opportunity to experience pilgrimage through sedentary activities.

For more information and booking details, email: pilgrimage@methodistchurch.org.uk

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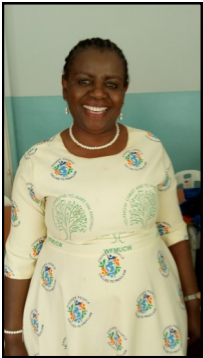
Further pilgrimage opportunities are being planned for **Scotland** (July/August 2018) and **Rome** (5th–10th March 2019, with registration due to open in January 2018). Look out for further details coming soon in the MWiB newsletter and on the MWiB website.

Forty Years of Methodist Autonomy in Zimbabwe

At the invitation of Rev Dr Jimmy Dube, the General Secretary of the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe, I was given the enormous privilege of representing the Methodist Church in Britain at the celebrations of forty years of Autonomy and the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, including several opportunities to meet with members of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. I was accompanied by my husband Les. We were given an enthusiastic welcome by ululating women at Harare Airport, and shown warm and generous hospitality and care, in particular by Revd Cleopas Sibanda (MCZ UK Fellowship chaplain) and his wife Susan, Mrs Sipiwe Chisvo (World Federation Area President for Southern and East Africa), and the Manyano/ Ruwadzano of MCZ.



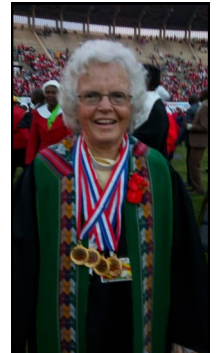
An enthusiastic welcome at Harare Airport



On our first day we visited three MCZ churches and shared in their harvest worship. The next day, 500 women from across the country met at Trinity Methodist Church, Harare where worshippers were enthralled by an address by Rev J Dube on the topic of Gender Justice. The newly appointed MCZ Gender Justice Officer, Ms Lillian Chikara [pictured left], was present to hear discussion touching on treatment of widows, gender-based discrimination, the effects of adultery and HIV/AIDS on family relationships and the need to speak up on behalf of other women seeking to reach their potential, both within the church and beyond.

We were invited by Rev Cleopas Sibanda to participate in the 90th Birthday celebrations of his mother, at their family home in rural Zimbabwe – a very special interlude from the formal programme and one we shall always recall with great joy.

Back in Harare, we joined with 40,000 Methodists at the National Sports Stadium for a four day event to celebrate 40 years of Autonomous Mission by the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe, under the theme of 'Warmed Hearts', with singing, dancing, worship, preaching, processions, performances by choirs of all ages and greetings from special guests and representatives from the Diaspora in Canada, South Africa, and the UK. The celebrations also included recognition of forty years of women's ordination in MCZ. The first woman to be ordained, Rev Margaret James [pictured right], was awarded several medals for outstanding service and spoke of the need to include women in the leadership roles of the church including as Bishops.



The Annual Conference took place in the Flamboyant Hotel, Masvingo District, with Presiding Bishop Revd Dr Solomon Zwana, and the Lay President Mr Brown Sanyauke. I again brought greetings from the MCB, and on behalf of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, and affirmed how their church has grown in strength, numbers and in impact over the last 40 years. I assured them of our desire to continue in partnership with them through the World Church Office and spoke of how we appreciate the contributions made to the life of MCB by the MCZ UK Fellowship. I paid tribute to their initiatives that empower women, care for orphaned children, encourage men in the faith, ensure Christian education and outreach, and for taking seriously the issue of gender justice.



Alison with S.E. Africa Area President Mrs Sipiwe Chisvo

We visited the Matthew Rusike Children's Home at Epworth outside Harare and saw the new floor tiles provided for each of the houses. It was a delight to be shown around the home by the Director, Rev Margaret Mawire. We also had the chance to meet with women in Harare and Bulawayo who are benefitting from classes in creative skills like needlework, embroidery, vegetable production and even breeding rabbits that enable income generation; and a two year course of leadership training, health and IT education for lay women in the Bulawayo area.

Before our return home, we were glad to have a few days of being tourists, with a visit to the grave of Cecil Rhodes, a two day trip to Victoria Falls, and an afternoon in a nature reserve bordering the Zambezi river. Our only sadness was to see how this land, which used to be the bread basket of Africa, now suffers so badly from political and economic challenges, how people have to queue for hours to withdraw their money from the bank, only to be told they could take out no more than \$20. And yet our lasting impression of the Methodist people in Zimbabwe is that their faith is strong and resilient, that they demonstrate a joy and trust in God that is an example to follow. It warmed our hearts to be with them as they celebrated 40 years of doing God's mission the Zimbabwean way.

Alison Judd, August 2017

NB: Alison's full, unedited report can be found on the MWiB website.

MWiB Merchandise



As well as MWiB pens (£1.00), lapel badges (£2.00) and lanyards (£1.50), we now have two new items of MWiB merchandise available: a compact mirror at £1.50, and a shopping bag which cleverly folds up into its own little pouch, priced at £2.50. There is also a limited number of small candles at £4.00 each, and jute tote bags at £4.00 each.

There are now two designs of Butterfly note cards available. Each pack contains five cards with envelopes, and these are £3.00 per pack.

If you require further copies of the Dementia Friendly Churches pack, this is currently only available from Lesley France at Methodist Homes, but we hope to have it available to download from the website soon.

Are you looking for material for your Bible Study or House Group this autumn? Perhaps you would like to consider our *Aloneness* or *Journeying Spiritually with Children* packs, produced in partnership with Shoreline Conversations. These can be ordered at £8.00 per pack, with the *Aloneness* pack also being available in larger version for people with visual impairment.

For further information about MWiB merchandise visit the MWiB website, or email resources@mwib.org.uk

Liz Marriott
MWiB Resources Officer

Meet a Mission Partner

Our Woman in South Korea



Lorraine Emery-Wright writes about cultural adjustments in South Korea:

I have lived in six cultures and visited more than thirty others. Yet, living in Korea for one year has been the most challenging. Recently, I have been trying to identify the reasons. Possibly it relates to what I am not doing or what I had hoped to do but am not able to do. Consequently, I probably need to adjust my expectations. This feels like turning around while I balance on a tightrope as it involves both my desires and the expectations of the church we work with.

The church leadership's dream was for us to start an English speaking service which would be filled with foreigners and be self-sufficient. We have started a service and only have three foreigners attending, while the rest are Koreans from our own church. I was given the role of co-ordinating this service. Naturally Steve preaches and has a lot to do with the planning too.

On top of this there are the practical everyday challenges like living in a small 3rd floor apartment up 42 steps with no lift. Learning to drive in a different system, with an automatic car, on the other side of the road where people do not obey rules.

In spite of these difficulties I believe God has led us here and is using me in ways that will become clearer in time. I responded to the call of God without knowing the results or the outcomes, but in trust. Our multicultural congregation recently had a prayer day together where together we all sensed the power of God moving among our small group. God is truly leading.

Please pray for us, pray for North Korea and South Korea.

Love in Christ

Lorraine

Steve and Lorraine, and the church in Korea, are featured on Day 21 in the Methodist Prayer Handbook.



Forthcoming Events



Swanwick 2018 Residential Weekend

Friday 20th–Sunday 22nd
April 2018

Oceans of Justice, Rivers of Fairness

Keynote speaker:

Rachel Lampard
(Joint Public Issues Team
and Vice President of
Conference 2016-17)

Look out for further
information and
booking forms,
available with the
next mailing, or to
download from the
MWiB website from
1st November 2017



There are still a few places available for the
World Federation Day 2018



Gender Equality in the 21st Century

Saturday 28th October 2017
10.00am–4.00pm

Side Door Methodist Church, Lacey Road, Grimsby, Lincolnshire DN34 5BH

Worship, Bible study, keynote presentation by World Federation President
Alison Judd, plus information, activities, and gender issue resources.

Refreshments and hot lunch provided. Suggested donation £10 per person.

Book your place now!

Booking form available to download from: www.mwib.org.uk
or email: admin@mwib.org.uk or telephone: 0300 030 9873



World Federation
of Methodist and
Uniting Church Women



Joint Area Seminar

Thursday 7th–Sunday 10th June 2018 at the Clayton Hotel, Belfast.

Worship, keynote speakers, workshops and activities exploring how we are

‘Chosen People—Called to Proclaim’

through worship, relationships and social action

Poster and Registration Pack available to download from: www.mwib.org.uk
or email: admin@mwib.org.uk or telephone: 0300 030 9873

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