

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Writing this letter at the end of February it seems very strange to be sitting, with the window wide open, looking out at clear blue skies and mature catkins hanging from the branches of a twisted hazel bush!

This quarter started on a very positive note with the appointment by Forum of Hilary Evans as our new Vice President. We welcome Hilary to the executive team and look forward to her commissioning as President at our Methodist Conference fringe event in Birmingham on 28th June 2019.

At the end of October 2018 we held our World Federation Study Day, based on SDG 4: Quality Education, on the same day in two venues. This proved to be very successful and we plan to build on this venture in October 2019 when we will be studying SDG 6: Safe water and Sanitation, simultaneously in Darlington and Braintree.

Other highlights of the last quarter were the opportunity for Nina Rawlins and myself to join with the Methodist Women of Ireland at their Fellowship Weekend in Newcastle County Down, an invitation from Guernsey to share fellowship with ladies in the Channel Islands, and visits to the Southampton, Manchester, Lincolnshire and the Beds Essex and Herts Districts.

Sunday 20th January 2019 marked the 350th anniversary of the birth of Susanna Wesley and many joined together in a prayer vigil at Epworth or a pilgrimage from her birthplace to burial ground in London to mark the occasion. More events are planned throughout the year so do look out for them on the Methodist Heritage and MWiB websites.

Later this year Forum will be saying goodbye to Irene Hayes, the Methodist Representative on the World Day of Prayer Committee, as she comes to the end of her three year term. Irene has brought fresh insight and energy into the role and we will miss her. If you, or anyone you know, may be interested in taking up the role, Irene is very happy to have a conversation about it. See page 2 for more information.

I look forward to meeting many of you in April at our Annual Residential Weekend at The Hayes in Swanwick, where once again we will share faith, fellowship, worship, learning and fun.

With every blessing

Sandra

Near right: MWiB Exec with Susanna Wesley
Far right: BEH District event at High Leigh



World Federation Day in
Blackburn, October 2018



Nina Rawlins and
MWI fellowship



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

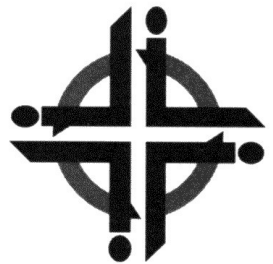
In her Letter from the President, Sandra mentioned the need for a new **World Day of Prayer rep**, but we're also beginning to think about other roles which will need filling soon. MWiB is currently looking for a new **Resources Officer**, and will be advertising soon for a new **Vice President/President** for 2020–2024. We're also preparing information in order to appoint a new **Communications Officer**, **World Federation Area Officer**, and **Helen Kim Memorial Scholar**; these five-year roles begin at the World Assembly in Sweden in 2021.

Please consider carefully and prayerfully whether you, or anyone you know, might be being called to any of these roles. Below you'll find information about the WDP rep, Resources Officer, and Helen Kim Scholar. Information about the other roles will be available in due course—look out in the newsletter and on the website.

EXCITING VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY WITH

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer is the largest ecumenical movement in the world, involving men, women and children in 170 countries and territories. A wonderful opportunity has arisen for a Methodist woman to be involved in this huge annual day of prayer, as the representative of the English Methodist Churches on the National WDP Committee for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The successful candidate will also represent the WDP on the Methodist Women in Britain Forum.



If you'd like to find out more:

please email admin@mwib.org.uk for a full job description and application pack.

The closing date for applications is Friday 26 July 2019 and interviews will be held at Methodist Church House, London, on Monday 9 September 2019.

MWiB is looking for a new **RESOURCES OFFICER**

The role involves:

- ~ ordering and sourcing merchandise items
- ~ maintaining stock levels, price list, etc
- ~ receiving mail orders and sending out goods
- ~ arranging merchandise/resources stall at MWiB events (eg Swanwick residential, Methodist Conference, World Fed Days...)
- ~ storage of merchandise/resources

Time commitment:
approx. an hour to
half a day per week
(depends on time of
year and upcoming
events).



If you're interested
and would like more detailed information
about the role, contact Liz via email: resources@mwib.org.uk

HELEN KIM MEMORIAL SCHOLAR

The Scholarship is open to Methodist women who will be aged 18–29 at the 2021 World Assembly.

The new HKMS will travel to Gothenburg in August 2021 for two days of leadership training with other HKMS from around the world, before attending the World Assembly itself. The role is, in essence, to work alongside MWiB, encouraging the involvement of younger women in the World Federation Area, and enabling them to engage with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Rachel Allison, our current HKMS [pictured], who has been focusing on issues around FGM, forced marriage, and gender-based violence says:

"Despite the name, this is *not* an educational role leading to a formal qualification. It *is* though just a great opportunity to do and to engage with the important work of MWiB and the World Federation. There's no set role—you choose an issue to focus on, and put your own stamp on it."



Could this be you? Or someone you know?

More information and Application details available soon.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS: 20th March and 19th June 2019, at MCH, London

FORUM MEETING: 4th—6th October 2019, at The Hayes, Swanwick

If you have any issues you wish to raise or questions to ask,
please contact your Forum Rep or email admin@mwib.org.uk.



The Easter Offering 2019 service features stories of shared hospitality across the world. The worship encourages us to consider how we might build longer tables, rather than higher fences, as we share whatever we have and connect with our neighbours.

All money raised from the Easter Offering goes to the World Mission Fund, enabling the church to work in mission alongside our 67 partner churches across the world.

The service resources are available now to download from the MWiB website, or to order from Methodist Publishing (order form available to download from the website, or by post from MWiB—telephone 0300 030 9873 to request an order form).

LENT REFLECTIONS

A series of reflections, following the Easter Offering theme of 'Longer Tables, Lower Fences', is available on the MWiB website. Each reflection, one for each week in Lent, has been written by a different woman, with writers including Revd Barbara Glasson (Touchstone Centre), Alison Judd (President of the World Federation President), Rachel Lampard (Joint Public Issues Team), and Jo Richards (Forum Rep for the Manchester and Stockport District). The reflections are ideal for your own individual devotions, or they can be downloaded and printed for use in your church or group meeting.

Grow Your Own Dementia Friendly Church

In 2015 MWiB, working in partnership with Methodist Homes, produced a resource pack to encourage churches to think about ways in which our church premises and worship can be made more accessible for people living with dementia. We ran out of copies some time ago, but we're still getting people asking how they can get hold of it! So, we're currently working with Methodist Homes again to update, augment and improve the information and resources, and we hope to re-launch the updated pack later this year.

Can you help us?

Whether you've used the pack or not, we'd love to hear from you:

~ Why is church important for people living with dementia?

In terms of both premises and worship itself:

~ What have you found helpful or unhelpful?

~ What should be included, and what avoided?

~ What have you done in your own church (to improve premises, in your usual Sunday worship, any new initiatives e.g. Dementia Friendly services... and how has it made a difference)?

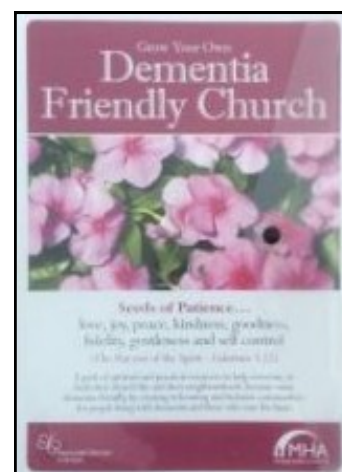
And if you, your church, or your group have used any of the information or resources in the pack:

~ What 'worked', and what didn't?

~ What was helpful, and what wasn't?

Please don't be limited by these questions—any and all feedback and comments will be really useful.

You can email responses to: admin@mwib.org.uk
or send by post (MWiB address on the back page).



Thank you!

Travelling Lightly in Lent



Travel Lightly is a six week (40 day) resource of reflections, activities and prayers for Lent inspiring you, with others, to travel lightly as you reflect on the wilderness experience, which for many people in our world is a daily reality.

The Travel Lightly booklet can be followed daily by individuals or used weekly in small groups. There are also engaging materials for a church service, as well as children, youth and school sessions.

Available to order or download: www.allwecan.org.uk/lent





Passions and Palms

Heavy Lifting and Resilient Hope

Creative Explorations
with Revd Dr Val Ogden

Swanwick 2019
Residential Weekend

Friday 5th—Sunday 7th April

Keynote sessions, Bible study, workshops and worship on the theme
Time to make and renew friendships ~ Relax together or find quiet space alone
Butterfly Bring and Buy stall (for Tabita House, Bolivia)
Market Place, book stall, and 'Touchstone Drawers' exhibition

£170 full board in single and shared en-suite accommodation (bursaries available)
Crèche and children's programme available

Only a few places remaining—book your place now to avoid disappointment!

For further information and booking form:

visit: www.mwib.org.uk email: admin@mwib.org.uk telephone: 0300 030 1517

MWiB launches new training bursaries

At the Forum meeting in February 2019, MWiB agreed to create two new bursary funds to enable women to undertake training courses currently being offered by Cliff College.

The Cliff Year

A new gap year opportunity for 18–25 year olds, running from September 2019 to July 2020, focussing on evangelism, mission and calling. A group of young Christians will live and work together in a missional community, following a simple rule of life, and exploring how to live, learn, worship, serve, and share faith together. The total all-inclusive cost for the year is £995, and MWiB is offering a 50% (variable) bursary towards this cost.



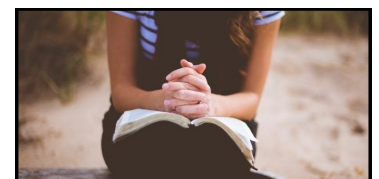
Certificate in Women in Leadership

A one-week course. Led by Dr. Joanna Williamson (One Rock International and SheLives), with members of the Cliff College faculty and others, the course is designed for those in, or aspiring to, leadership roles in both church and marketplace ministry, or those wanting to refresh their leadership toolbox and re-evaluate their current practices. The course takes place 16th–20th September 2019, and MWiB bursaries are available towards the cost £435.



Every Woman: Ruth

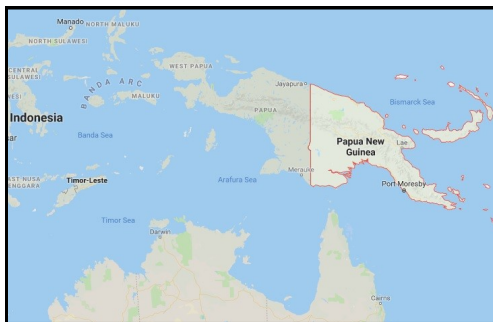
Working in joint partnership with Girls' Brigade Ministries, Cliff College is offering a weekend retreat for women of all ages, from 4th–6th October 2019, with space for up to 20 women to talk, pray and reflect together on the book and character of Ruth.



Places are limited on all these courses, so early booking is advised.

Further details of the courses themselves can be found on the Cliff College website: www.cliffcollege.ac.uk
Information and application forms for the bursaries can be found on the MWiB website: www.mwib.org.uk

Please pass on this information to anyone you think might be interested in bursaries for any of these courses.
All of the information is available on the MWiB website, or contact us by email or telephone.



Meet a Mission Partner

Our Woman in... Limbo!

Have you ever been in limbo? An interesting place: relaxed, devoid of decisions and routine, and seemingly endless. The 'ideal holiday', you might say.

Well, maybe, but it's the place I'm in at the moment as I await my return to Papua New Guinea as a mission partner. Once there I'll be returning part-time to the disaster risk reduction desk of the United Church PNG and part-time as the Methodist Church in Britain's Relationship Coordinator in the Pacific. Both roles will be based out of the capital, Port Moresby [pictured below].

This time last year, the government of Papua New Guinea had just declared a National Emergency in response to the 7.5M Highlands Earthquake, and the staff of the United Church PNG were in the throes of responding. And I was dashing around with them.

Now, I wait.

I wait for news of a visa, for a freight company collection, for flights to be arranged, for goodbyes to be said, and for warm welcomes to be made. Now, I wait.

Many people in the Bible waited on God—and some for many years. But whatever the length, there is always a reason for the 'breathing spaces' in our lives, although to us that reason may not always be obvious.

We must learn just to breathe deeply...

Julia

Julia Edwards



Annual Review ~ Spring 2019

The latest MWiB Annual Review is now available. As well as reviewing what we did in 2017–2018, this publication gives a broad overview of Methodist Women in Britain's aims and activities—events, grants, social action projects, world church partnerships, and so on—and as such it's a fantastic way of showing other people who we are and what we do.



The Review is free, and copies will be available at the Swanwick residential in April, and the Conference Fringe Event in June. Alternatively we can post copies to you by request—just email, write, or telephone (contact details on the back page) with your contact details and how many copies you require. Why not get enough to give out at your own group, or church, or even your District Synod?

Visit the MWiB website

www.mwib.org.uk

for information about:



~ MWiB events and activities ~

~ President's Blog ~

~ Easter Offering and Lent Reflections ~

~ Prayer for the Week ~

~ quarterly Prayer Diary ~

~ World Federation monthly Call to Pray ~

~ World Federation news and activities ~

...and much more!

Forthcoming Events



World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

World Federation Day 2019



Water for Life, Water of Life

Based on SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Saturday 26th October 2019
10.00am–4.00pm

Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Darlington
and Christchurch, Braintree

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

Further information and booking form available soon

Join with women from around the world for the

14th World Federation World Assembly

10th–15th August 2021
Gothia Towers Hotel, Gothenburg, Sweden



Save the dates—further details to be confirmed

Methodist Conference Fringe Event

‘Open Hands and Space to Grow’

Friday 28th June 2019
7.30—9.00pm
(refreshments from 7.00pm)



Includes the commissioning of
Hilary Evans as MWiB President

Venue: The Warwick Suite (tbc),
Hilton Birmingham Metropole,
Pendigo Way, B40 1PP

On the Road with MWiB!

This year MWiB will be present with a resources and
information stand at the following events:

- 22nd–27 April ECG event, Scarborough
- 24th–27th May Cliff College Festival weekend
- 29th Jun–4th July Methodist Conference, Birmingham
- 12th–14th July Methodist Heritage Conf, Lincoln

If you're there, do come along and say hello!

Contact us:

MWiB President:	Sandra Goodwin	president@mwib.org.uk
Vice President:	Hilary Evans	vicepresident@mwib.org.uk
WFM&UCW Officer:	Carolyn Lawrence	wfmucw@mwib.org.uk
Finance Officer:	Nina Rawlins	finance@mwib.org.uk
Communications Officer:	Judith Simms	communications@mwib.org.uk
Resources Officer:	Liz Marriott	resources@mwib.org.uk
General enquiries:	0300 030 9873	admin@mwib.org.uk
MWiB, c/o Touchstone, 4 Easby Road, Bradford BD7 1QX		

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