



World Federation
of Methodist and
Uniting Church Women

Applications are invited for two volunteer roles in MWiB:

World Church Liaison Officer 2021-2026

A five year volunteer role beginning in August 2021, when the person appointed will become World Church Liaison Officer for Methodist Women in Britain and part of the Executive committee for the five year term.

World Federation Area President 2021-2026

This is a five year volunteer role beginning in August 2021 at the World Assembly in Gothenburg, Sweden, when the person appointed will become Area President for Europe: Britain and Ireland, one of nine Areas of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFM&UCW). The Area President will work closely with the World Church Liaison Officer and MWiB Executive for the five year term.

Full role descriptions, application forms and further details about both roles can be found on our website www.mwib.org.uk or email: communications@mwib.org.uk

Closing date for applications has been extended to Friday 6th March 2020

Interviews will be held at Methodist Church House, London on Thursday 19th March 2020



Methodist Women
in Britain

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Readers,

2020 is well under way as I write, and for me, the pace is quite rapid. The diary is pretty full with a range of different meetings. Early in January I had the privilege of listening to probationary ministers as they made presentations about the work they are instigating in their various churches. I have been part of the Probationers group supporting those new to ministry in the Southampton District for a number of years. It has been one of the most interesting, inspiring local experiences. It has been so encouraging to see and hear able and committed Presbyters and Deacons grow in confidence as they have established themselves in their roles.

I have had opportunities to raise awareness about issues of migrancy and human trafficking, and have increasingly come to realise that much of the movement of people from their homes is increasingly being driven by climate change. For example in the South American countries of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala over the past decade changes in established weather patterns have led to less and less successful crop growth. In addition to the often brutal regimes, lack of job opportunities and poverty climate change is forcing people to leave their homes and seek a place to live where they can find food for their children and themselves. We do not hear a great deal of news from Latin America, but since my visit to Mexico last year, I try to follow events in that area. The situation in recent months does not seem to have improved as the United States policies trap many at the Mexican/USA border. Many Mexican people try hard to offer humanitarian aid, but are often overwhelmed by the scale of need. So many people are forced into shelters and camps making them very vulnerable to those who would take advantage for their own ends; abuse, sexual violence and trafficking are all too



Migrants held in a cage at Mexico/USA border

common. Young women and unaccompanied children are the most vulnerable. Some are trafficked within Mexico, but many are shipped illegally across into the USA to those who will pay money.



A completed panel for the WCC 'Waterfall' project

You may well be aware of the World Council of Churches' initiative requesting stitched panels to create a 'Waterfall' tapestry in support of the #ThursdaysinBlack campaign, which offers quiet protest about gender based violence every Thursday by asking people to wear black to raise awareness. MWiB supports this campaign, with Thursdays in Black badges available to order from our Resources Officer, and T-shirts available from www.creativechristianclothing.co.uk. The whole of the Methodist Church is being encouraged to support the 'Waterfall'. Some Districts have already responded to this request, and I encourage others to do so. It would be wonderful to see our groups and churches well represented in the finished product. Information about the requirements can be found at www.oikoumene.org, along with information about where to send completed panels.

On a recent visit to Northumberland and Durham I visited Durham Cathedral. I had not been there for nearly fifty years, but was particularly struck by its location [panting as we climbed the steep hill up to it]. The cathedral and nearby castle strike solidity, reminding one of their role in history as part of the English defence against Scots invaders. That solidity is still prominent, but inside there is a wonderful marriage of old and new features – stained glass and sculptures, solid walls and glass additions. The place was alive, proud of its heritage and very present in the now, as well as looking to maintain a relevance in the future.



The altar in Durham Cathedral

In February, the MWiB Forum will gather for our twice yearly meeting. Our agenda is full and includes current issues and challenges for discussion and consideration. It is always a time for sharing, fellowship, decision making and stimulus as we seek to support and inspire one another. Please keep all the district reps in your prayers, and support them as they seek to share the news from Forum more widely.

This year is evoking many responses across our nation. It does not feel a settled time, but we must try to remember that what we see and perceive in what we hear and observe is just a small part of a much larger whole. Our task is to do our utmost to trust, and to pray for a more just and equal world. Hope and love are part of Christian DNA.

Hilary

We are pleased to announce that Elaine Banks (MWiB Forum Rep for the Plymouth and Exeter District) has recently taken on the role of Resources Officer. To order your merchandise and resources, contact the usual email address: resources@mwib.org.uk or order by post or telephone (see p.6)



SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS IN YOUR CHURCH

After receiving a generous legacy, and following on from our work on visual impairment, MWiB has produced a resource which offers guidelines to the church to support the many people in our congregations with some degree of hearing difficulty. Ministers, local preachers and stewards especially may find the information useful in helping to ensure a warm and inclusive welcome to everyone attending worship and other events in our churches.

This resource, and *Don't You See?* are free and are available to order by telephone or post (see p.6) or by email: resources@mwib.org.uk



Both resources can be downloaded from: www.mwib.org.uk

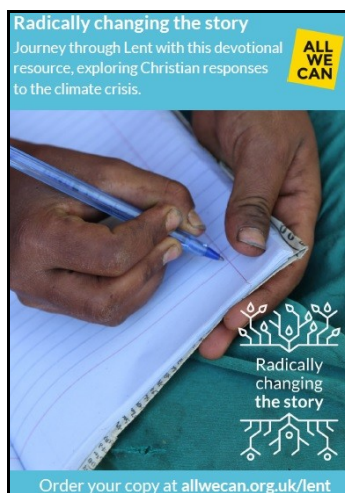
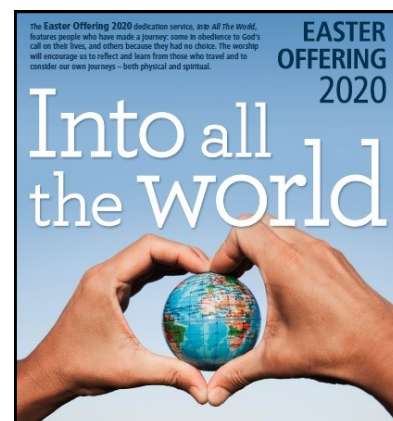
Easter Offering...

The Easter Offering 2020 dedication service, *Into All The World*, features people who have made a journey: some in obedience to God's call on their lives, and others because they had no choice. The worship will encourage us to reflect and learn from those who travel and to consider our own journeys—both physical and spiritual.

... and Lent Reflections

Also available is a series of Lent Reflections, one for each week of Lent, which tie in to the theme of the Easter Offering. These are ideal to use in worship and in small groups, and for your own personal devotion.

Easter Offering resources (including order form for hard copies) and Lent Reflections are available to download from the MWiB website: www.mwib.org.uk



The climate story and me:

how can the radical stories of Jesus help us to respond to the growing climate crisis?

All We Can, the Methodist relief and development agency, is working around the world to enable people to see their potential fulfilled, to see them become all that they can. However, in many of these places, the effects of climate change are already destroying livelihoods, damaging farmland, and claiming lives. We know that in order to change this story, we are going to have to take radical action.

This Lent, journey with *All We Can* in a devotional resource that will help you reflect on how Jesus's storytelling can motivate us to take that action. You will pray, read, reflect, learn, be challenged by the stories of others, share together and—most importantly—act.

Amongst the contributors is MWiB's President, Hilary Evans.

To order your copies of the devotional, to find out about other lent resources and radically change your story, go to the *All We Can* website: allwecan.org.uk/lent



Gifts for Gothenburg

In August 2021, the 14th World Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women will take place in Gothenburg, Sweden (see p.6 for details), and once again we will be encouraging MWiB groups to raise funds to enable women from some of the poorer areas of Europe to join us at the Assembly.

Following past successes with 'Tenners for Texas', 'Pounds for Pomezia' and 'Bonanza for Belfast', we will be launching our latest fundraising idea, '**Gifts for Gothenburg**', at our Swanwick weekend in April 2020.

The idea behind '**Gifts for Gothenburg**' is that people will bring along to Swanwick (or send with their friends, if not attending themselves) one or more gift(s)—something nice, new, home-made, perhaps—something that you would be pleased to receive yourself. All the gifts must be nicely wrapped—and you might give some thought to ecology by using recyclable paper, brown paper decorated yourself, tissue paper, or even cloth—but with no indication on the wrapping of what is inside. People will then choose one or more gifts to buy, and every gift will be a surprise!

As an indication of how much you might spend on gift(s), we expect to sell gifts for £2 or £3 (though of course people are free to pay more if they wish).

You might like to use this idea to raise funds in your own group or at your own events. Just pay money in to MWiB in the usual way, and let Finance Officer Nina Rawlins know the amount paid in for '**Gifts for Gothenburg**'.

Methodists for World Mission Conference 2020

Celebrating Diversity:
Mission Together
in the Global Village



29th – 31st May 2020
The Hayes, Swanwick,

Speakers: Theologians
Prof Anthony Reddie and
Rev Dr Inderjit Bhogal

Booking forms on MWM
website soon:
www.mwm.org.uk
or by email:
MWMsec@gmail.com

Meet a Mission Partner

Our Woman in Gaza



Today I visited a Women's Centre based in Nusirat, in Gaza. Nusirat is the third largest refugee camp in Gaza, home to over 100,000 refugees who were forcibly displaced in 1948. The refugees face many difficulties including a lack of employment, electricity, and clean water. Most are dependent on food aid, and many children are malnourished and anaemic.

Samah and Ferayl are leaders in the Women's Centre who are committed to supporting women and children, addressing their many needs. The Palestinians are a people without rights, without freedom of movement, continuously facing difficult situations, being under siege by land, air and sea. Yet I am inspired by these strong committed women who stand for women's rights, who provide a safe space and environment for women and children.

The Centre provides legal aid, representation, and mediation to the poorest of the poor. Their role is much more than an eight-hour job. They are there to coordinate with other organisations including UNRWA—the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East—and to be available in emergency situations.

The Women's Centre also provides vocational opportunities like hairdressing and embroidery, as well as childcare facilities for the most vulnerable of an already impoverished community. The Centre is thankful for the support given by MWiB to start up and provide vocational assistance to young deaf women in the area, and for continuing to empower women in this way.*

Angleena

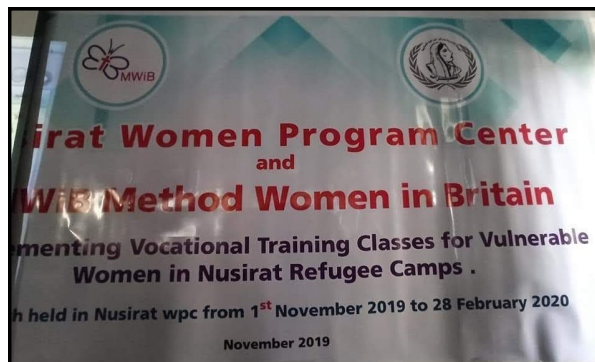
Angleena Keizer



Above: Vocational training at the Nusirat Women's Centre

Right: A banner celebrating the link between MWiB and the Women's Centre

Far right: Angleena visits the children in Nusirat's childcare centre



* In 2019, MWiB gave an Empowerment Gift of £5,000 to the Nusirat Women's Centre for its work with young deaf women. Since writing this piece for the newsletter, the money has been received, and Angleena has sent us these photographs, which show some of the young women at the Centre working on their embroidery—traditional designs, and the MWiB logo!





The Pilgrim Way

Part of the Cliff College Retreats programme.

Friday 1st–Sunday 3rd May 2020

Led by Jill Baker, this new weekend spiritual retreat will reflect on what it means to journey as a pilgrim, and will include conversations and shared times as well as silence and space for personal reflection.

- ~ The retreat will provide opportunity to see our own story, and the wider Bible story, as pilgrim journeys, following a God who is always on the move.
- ~ We will explore the spiritual practice of pilgrimage, discovering pilgrim attitudes (such as living lightly, choosing courage, adopting attentiveness) which can resource us on life's journey.
- ~ For those who want to, there will be opportunities to walk in the beautiful grounds of Cliff College, but there will be other, fully accessible, options.
- ~ In worship and silence, story and song, reflection and imagination, we will travel together as we choose the pilgrim way.

The retreat Pilgrimage is much more than a physical journey—indeed it may not involve travelling at all!

“We are invited to make a pilgrimage—
into the heart and life of God.”

[Dallas Willard]

Only twenty places available.

The cost of £170.00 includes:

- ~ full board Friday evening to Sunday lunch
- ~ en-suite accommodation
- ~ all teaching and craft materials.

A non refundable deposit of £30.00 secures your place; balance to be paid before or on arrival.

To book your place, go to:
[www.cliffcollege.ac.uk/
students/shortcourses/
cliff-retreats/the-pilgrim-way/](http://www.cliffcollege.ac.uk/students/shortcourses/cliff-retreats/the-pilgrim-way/)



N.B. This event is supported by but not organised by MWiB; we have no details other than those given here.

Methodists for World Mission Conference 2020

Celebrating Diversity:
Mission Together in the Global Village



Friday 29th – Sunday 31st May 2020
The Hayes, Swanwick,

Speakers: British Methodist Theologians
Prof Anthony Reddie and Rev Dr Inderjit Bhogal

Booking forms on MWM website soon:
www.mwm.org.uk
or by email: MWMsec@gmail.com

JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE

At our Forum meeting in October 2019, we committed ourselves as Methodist Women in Britain to pray for our World Federation Officer Carolyn Lawrence as she prepares for and takes on the role of Vice President of the Methodist Conference.

We know that Methodist women will be praying for Carolyn throughout her time in office, but we would like to encourage each District to be especially committed to supporting Carolyn for one month during the year. To facilitate this, we have drawn up a monthly rota, which is available to download from www.mwib.org.uk or by email: admin@mwib.org.uk

The Methodist Church will produce a free prayer card, available in June 2020, outlining the diary engagements for the President and Vice President; do please get hold of a copy, and use it to inform your prayers during the year. When available, it can be ordered online: www.methodistpublishing.org.uk



*Vice President Designate Carolyn Lawrence,
and President Designate Revd Richard Teal*

MWiB EXECUTIVE MEETINGS: 18th March and 10th June 2020

MWiB FORUM MEETINGS: 26th–27th September 2020 and 20th–21st February 2021

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

Forthcoming Events

Methodist Conference Fringe Event 2020

Supporting Growth

*(Jointly organised by MWiB and
the Global Relationships team)*

Friday 26th June
7.30—9.00pm
(6.30pm for food)

at Telford International Centre
St Quentin Gate, Telford TF3 4JH

An opportunity to:

Engage—in round-table discussion with friends and leaders from around Britain and the world
Listen—and learn from places around the world where growth is taking place
Share—your own story of how you support the growth of God's work where you are

This event is free, but **booking is essential**
if you're joining us for food beforehand.
Booking details will be available soon.



World Federation
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SAVE THE DATE!

World Federation Day 2020

Saturday 24th October
Central Methodist Church, Chippenham

Just Living: Being Faithful with God's Resources

*(based on Sustainable Development Goal 12:
Responsible consumption and production)*



Bible Study
Keynote Presentation
Action Stations
Prayer and Worship

Further details coming soon

Travelling in hope

Swanwick 2020 Residential Weekend



3rd –5th April 2020

The MWiB
residential weekend
is now
FULLY BOOKED

Join with over 700 women
from around the world for the
14th World Federation World Assembly



Go and Bear Fruit— Fruit that will Last

(John 15:16b)

10th–15th August 2021
Gothia Towers Hotel, Gothenburg, Sweden
Further details and booking information
will be available later in the year.

Contact us:

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Website: <http://www.mwib.org.uk>
Registered Charity No: 1156626

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Methodist Women in Britain



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