

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings to all our readers as I write my final President's letter before handing on the baton to Hilary Evans, our new Connexional President. Hilary will be commissioned at our Methodist Conference Fringe Event in Birmingham on 28th June, and I will continue to support her as I take on the role of Vice President for a further year.

This quarter began and ended for me at the Methodist Central Hall in Westminster. On 4th March we celebrated Daffodil Day at the Hall, along with Pam Rhodes and instrumentalist Simeon Wood. Daffodil day is an amazing experience and I can highly recommend it; if you've never been, give it a try—it always falls on the first Monday in March.

The following day I set off to Rome with a band of 17 brave pilgrims to share in the MWiB pilgrimage, a truly memorable and moving experience led by Jill Baker and Mission Partner Revd Tim Macquiban.

5th–7th April saw a full house once again at the Hayes Conference Centre at Swanwick, Derbyshire for the Annual MWiB Residential Conference, led this year by keynote speaker Revd Dr Val Ogden. On the Saturday evening we were guided through a 'Big Sing' by Revd Jenny Pathmarajah and the 'Signs for Worship' group, whom we first encountered at Conference in Nottingham last year. *[See page 4 for a full report on this year's weekend.]* Planning is already under way for next year's residential (3rd–5th April 2020), with keynote speaker Jill Baker.

Returning to Methodist Central Hall again on Sunday 9th June, I enjoyed an amazing time with the Ghanaian Methodist Women's Fellowship at their 15th Anniversary Thanksgiving service. Full of life and energy, the occasion will remain with me as one of the many highlights of my two years as MWiB President.

The last two years seem to have flown by as I have travelled across the Connexion enjoying worship and fellowship and sharing news at District days, weekends, quiet days, ladies' breakfasts and general meetings. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many wonderful women, and have been very grateful for the generous hospitality and warm welcomes that I have received.

Thank you for this amazing opportunity to share and serve.
With much love and every blessing

Sandra



*For every burden, a butterfly—turning the 'Atlas Stones' that weigh us down into symbols of hope and new life
[Swanwick Residential Weekend, April 2019]*



*The Ghanaian Methodist Women's Fellowship
celebrating their 15th Anniversary
[Westminster Central Hall, June 2019]*

Join us at our
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, plus worship, news, and information about Hilary's theme: 'Open Hands and Space to Grow'.

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

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.

Poster and booking form now available
to download from the MWiB website:
www.mwib.org.uk



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

World Day of Prayer: The women-led, global, ecumenical prayer movement is seeking a Methodist woman to represent the English Methodist Church on the WDP Committee (England, Wales and Northern Ireland).

For information and application pack, email: admin@mwib.org.uk

Closing date: Friday 26th July 2019, interviews: Monday 9 September 2019.

Resources Officer: For immediate appointment. See advert below for further details.

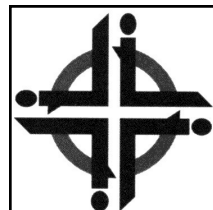
Other roles to be advertised soon:

Vice President/President (2020–2024)

Communications Officer (2021–2026)

World Federation Area Officer (2021–2026)

Helen Kim Memorial Scholar (2021–2026)



Please consider carefully and prayerfully whether you, or anyone you know, might be being called to any of these roles. Further information will be available in due course, in the newsletter and on the website.

MWiB is looking for a new RESOURCES OFFICER

In September 2019, Liz Marriott will be stepping down as MWiB Resources Officer, and we need to appoint a replacement to undertake this important role.

The role involves:

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

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

Please email admin@mwib.org.uk if you would like to take on this role. Liz would be happy to discuss the role if you feel you need more information—contact her directly by email: resources@mwib.org.uk





CELEBRATING SUSANNA!

Events are being held around the Connexion to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the birth of Susanna Wesley. If there's an event in your area, do send us an advert, or a short report and some photos, and we'll put in on the MWiB website.

One such event is the Connexional conference organised by Methodist Heritage:

A Bright Succession

2019 marks the 350th anniversary of the birth of Susanna Wesley, "the mother of Methodism". We continue our year-long celebrations with this exciting three day Heritage Conference taking place at the University of Lincoln from Friday 12th–Sunday 14th July 2019.

The conference, named after the famous hymn, will explore the legacy of Susanna Wesley today, touching on a range of issues linking gender, heritage and faith.

Guest speakers will include Professor Charles I. Wallace of Williamette University (USA), international expert on the writings of Susanna Wesley, and The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President Designate of the Methodist Conference 2019/2020. There will also be an evening of song at Lincoln Cathedral, an excursion to Epworth Old Rectory with open air communion, and an afternoon tea party and worship.

To book your place, follow the link on the MWiB website, or go direct to the Methodist Church website: www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/a-bright-succession-conference/

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Guest speaker at the conference, Professor Charles I. Wallace, is the editor of a new anthology of Susanna Wesley's spiritual writing: *From a Mother's Pen: Selections from the Spiritual Writing of Susanna Wesley*.

Known primarily as the mother of John and Charles Wesley, Susanna was herself an accomplished writer, a practical theologian, a dedicated teacher, and a principled churchwoman, deeply devoted to God.

Published to commemorate the 350th anniversary of her birth, this new anthology reveals both the struggles and triumphs of a woman in the eighteenth century, yet it also has resonance and inspiration for our own life's journey today. Each extract from Susanna's extensive penning of journal entries, letters and advice to her children, is set briefly in context for the reader. Her varied writing includes personal accounts of the turning points in her life (including the fire that ravaged the family home in Epworth), her engagement with the intellectual and spiritual thinkers of her day, her motherly wisdom to her three sons and seven daughters, and her meditations and spiritual reflections.

The book is £9.99 (hardback, 112 pages), and can be ordered from Methodist Publishing: www.methodistpublishing.org.uk (or ask at your local Christian bookshop).



Responding to Migration and Trafficking in Mexico

In April, MWiB Vice President Hilary Evans, travelling with Revd Felicity Al-Hassan as interpreter, visited Mexico to obtain information about migrancy and links to human trafficking. Migrants travel north to the Mexico/USA border on goods trains, riding on top of the goods being carried, at constant risk of exploitation from traffickers and threatened by local cartels. The churches provide shelter along the rail track and at the borders, and Hilary's trip included visits to several struggling and overwhelmed shelters [pictured above].



Hilary says, "Our emotions were many and various as we saw and heard horrific stories, talked with those determined to offer humanitarian aid, and were inspired by strong acts of simple faith."

You can hear more about Hilary's trip at our Fringe Event (details on page 2), and read her full report on the MWiB website. You can also invite Hilary to speak at your meeting or event (contact details on back page).

Passions and Palms: Heavy Lifting and Resilient Hope

Anne Browse reviews the MWiB Swanwick Residential Weekend, 5th–7th April 2019

The annual residential weekend was fully booked with 250 women attending, including almost 60 who were at the event for the first time. Providing crèche facilities enabled three women to participate more fully.

Having been part of the group responsible for organising this weekend over recent years, I enjoyed the luxury this time of being one of the crowd. Opportunities to meet new people and renew existing friendships were plentiful, it was good to share in prayer and worship together. Each morning there were options of worship led by women from the Newcastle and Lincolnshire Districts, or a prayer walk around the grounds of the centre. Morning worship was led on Saturday by the Zimbabwe Fellowship and on Sunday by Revd Jacky Goaten, one of our chaplains to the weekend.

The keynote speaker was Revd Dr Val Ogden, currently serving as a presbyter in the Boston Methodist Circuit in the Lincolnshire District. Val took as her theme *Passions and Palms: Heavy Lifting and Resilient Hope*. On Friday evening we considered the weight of the ‘Atlas stones’ being carried in our world, our society and our personal lives. On Saturday morning we looked at the way in which even small changes we make can have an impact in the world. The keynote sessions included craft activities, and stories from Val’s experiences as a Mission Partner in Zambia and Fiji.

On Saturday afternoon there was a wide choice of workshops. Topics included incarnational mission, modern day slavery, climate change, and mindfulness; drama, flag dancing and circle dancing; creative journals and craftivism; and sessions led by All We Can and Mission Aviation Fellowship. There was also an opportunity to view the Touchstone exhibition ‘Extraordinary Drawers’. Some people chose to use the prayer stations in the chapel or walk the prayer labyrinth, whilst others enjoyed the grounds of the centre or even took an afternoon siesta!

The Big Sing on Saturday evening was led by Revd Jenny Pathmarajah, and we were delighted to welcome again the ‘Signs for Worship’ choirs from Walsall and Long Eaton. On Sunday morning our Bible study was led by Louise Wilkins, currently President of the Britain and Ireland Area of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. The weekend concluded with Holy Communion shared in table groups in the Derbyshire Hall.

Next year’s weekend will take place 3rd–5th April 2020, with keynote speaker Jill Baker, former MWiB President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference 2017–2018. Bookings open on 1 November 2019, when full details, bursary information and registration forms will be available on the MWiB website and sent out in our Autumn mailing.

Update: the Sunday morning offering raised £1,600, which was divided equally between All We Can and Tabita House, Bolivia.



Gillian Womersley leads an early morning prayer walk in the beautiful Swanwick Conference Centre grounds.



MWiB President Sandra Goodwin and her daughter Rebecca Hodkinson relax with a treat supplied by Sally Murray, co-founder of the anti-trafficking initiative ‘Just-ice’.

So what’s the story...?

The President-Designate of the Methodist Conference, Revd Dr Barbara Glasson (Director of Touchstone Centre, Bradford) is undertaking the challenge of walking to this year’s Conference, taking place later this month in Birmingham—and she’s inviting people to walk with her!

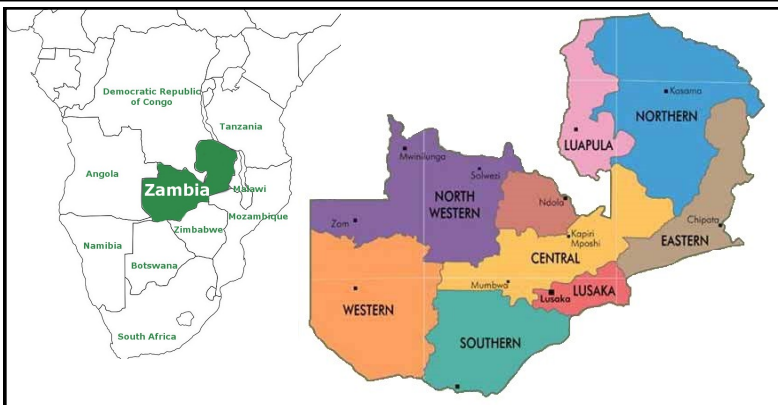
Setting off from Huddersfield on Friday 14th June, the walk will follow canal towpaths southwards through Ashton Under Lyne, Macclesfield, Congleton, Penkridge, and Bromford, before arriving at the NEC on Wednesday 26th June. Daily walking distances range from 7 to 13 miles, and the invitation is for anyone to join Barbara at any point of the walk, for any distance—a mile, a day, or more if you’re feeling fit!

The theme for Barbara’s Presidential year is *So what’s the story ...?*, and she is inviting people to share stories as they travel along. Walkers will also be sowing wildflower seeds along the way as a practical way of showing that the Church is passionate about and committed to tackling environmental issues.

A daily itinerary is available on the MWiB website, so you can follow the walkers’ progress and pray for them along the way. If you want to join Barbara on the walk, please contact Claire Corp: clairecorp@hotmail.com or telephone: 07923 153 012



Barbara prepares her walking shoes ready for the challenge!



Meet a Mission Partner:

Our Woman in Zambia

Hi from Choma in Zambia.

Southern province is a major farming area and everyone is praying for rain. The daily rains should have started in October and

continued on to March but alas this year, whilst other parts have experienced floods, we have had the lowest rainfall in 70 years, and next month we are approaching the dry season when there will be no rain at all till October. The reservoirs are just puddles, and everyone is wondering how we will cope.

The majority of people here live from hand to mouth and spend a considerable amount of capital in October on seeds and fertiliser to grow maize which, in turn, produces their staple food, *Nshima*. You don't have to be a farmer, you may not even have land, but you can still utilise every inch of space. In town, cultivating by railway lines, road verges and unused building plots is commonplace.

This year the crop will be very poor because people depend on rain to nurture it and, as you can see from the picture below, the cobs are already yellow and withering on the stalks. Prices for maize meal in the shops have risen from 65 to 90 *kwacha* for 25kg.

Please pray for survival tactics for the many who will have lost all their harvest this year.

Jenny

Jenny Featherstone
Mission partner at Chodort Training Centre

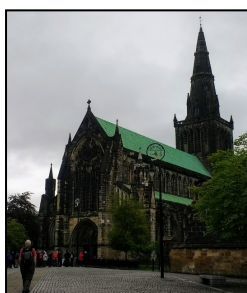


MWiB Scottish Pilgrimage: Walking through Scotland's history

An invitation to walk from Glasgow to the Isle of Whithorn in the footsteps of Saint Ninian and Saint Mungo, led by Gillian Womersley and Jill Baker.

Sunday 10th – Saturday 16 May 2020

Further information, costs, and booking details will be available autumn 2019 via MWiB mailings and on our website: www.mwib.org.uk



Prayer Diary June to August 2019

*** CORRECTION ***

Please note the following correction to the June-July-August 2019 Prayer Diary recently sent by email:

w/c 22nd June:

The Methodist Conference is, of course, in **Birmingham**, not Nottingham as stated.

The corrected version can be downloaded from the 'Prayer and Worship' page of the MWiB website.

Forthcoming Events



World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

Join with 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

Save the dates—
further details of cost, booking, etc to be confirmed

2019 DIARY DATES

Tuesday 18th June—New Forum Reps training

Wednesday 19th June—Executive meeting

Friday 28th June—Conference Fringe Event

[See page 2 for details]

Wednesday 11th September—Executive meeting

4th–6th October—MWiB Forum meeting

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

Saturday 26th October—World Federation Day:

Water for Life, Water of Life *[See page 2 for details]*

1st–3rd November—Executive Retreat

Wednesday 20 November—Executive meeting

Advance notice:

Residential Weekend, Swanwick:

Friday 3rd–Sunday 5th April 2020

*** CALLING ALL CREATIVES ***

The 14th World Assembly needs a logo!

‘Go and bear fruit—fruit that will last’ (John 15:16b)
Jesus calls us to action and productivity, to make a
lasting difference in order to build the kingdom of God.
The call to action begins now!

If you would like to submit a design for the Assembly
logo, please email world.secretary@wfmucw.org
for further information and guidelines.

Deadline for design submissions: 1st August 2019.



Contact us:

MWiB President (*from 28 June*): Hilary Evans

Vice President (*from 28 June*): Sandra Goodwin

WFM&UCW Officer: Carolyn Lawrence

Finance Officer: Nina Rawlins

Communications Officer: Judith Simms

Resources Officer: Liz Marriott

General enquiries: 0300 030 9873

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