

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings to you all.

As I come to write this letter, I'm reflecting on the past few months. I've always enjoyed having some challenges in day to day living, and rarely sit and do nothing, and that has certainly been true of late. Earlier in the year as I embarked on the learning curve of the MWiB Executive, I was also balancing that with maintaining my role as senior steward in my own church. I was keen to fulfil my commitments until an appropriate time to 'step back'.

The MWiB role has brought unexpected opportunities, with the chance to join a pilgrimage to Rome back in March, followed by a life changing trip to Mexico to visit migrant shelters on the US border. My interest is to raise awareness about human trafficking and modern slavery, but as the British Methodist Church is not directly tackling trafficking or slavery, migrancy was the nearest concern. The link between trafficking, slavery and migrancy was evident in some of the places in Mexico. For example, vulnerable people, particularly unaccompanied youngsters, are 'picked up' by cartels as they seek a better life, often tricked into thinking there will be a job for them at the end of their journey. Sadly, most often they are sold as slaves when they near the border. Some are forced into lives of servitude for little or no pay or freedom, while others are forced into prostitution. We saw evidence both in Monterrey and Tijuana.

There were poignant moments such as meeting the new mother with a three day old daughter, lying together on a mattress in a large room full of mattresses. She had been given space to rest, and was smiling, but one wondered what the future might hold. There were inspiring moments too. Many people from local churches have been working hard for many years to offer humanitarian support to the migrants, and they are determined to continue despite not having a great deal themselves. Their faith was so strong, and they were truly seeking to live it.



Mexican church members making sandwiches for migrants

In late June and early July I had my first experience of Methodist Conference. It took a little while to understand the system of operation, but the level of debate was impressive. Some topics, such as Marriage and Relationships, engender strong feelings on both sides of the debate, but language was measured, respect for opposing views held, and reasoned argument put forward, along with some emotive personal stories. Overall a striking achievement, and a good standard of interaction – one that those involved should be proud of.

In the summer it was a joy to meet and chat to Harriet Olsen, CEO and General Secretary of United Methodist Women, who was briefly in London. We shared information about our two movements, and I learnt a good deal. We have a lot in common, but where we have five volunteer members of Executive, the UMW employ around 60 people. Harriet gave me a copy of this year's UMW study book entitled 'Practicing Resurrection', by UMC Pastor Janet Wolf, an inspiring and challenging book looking at the radical nature of Mark's gospel as if Mark were written by a woman.

More recently I have visited London to meet and get to know a range of Methodist people, learning how we can support one another through our various organisations to spread the gospel, including the Evangelism and Growth Consultation, bringing together folk from across Methodism to plan the direction of the church in the coming years.



Hilary, second from left, at the Southampton District Celebration Day

There have also been invitations to speak. These have included a MWiB Celebration Day during which the new MWiB District President for the Southampton District, Irene Bourne, was commissioned. Irene took an environmental theme for the day, so the talks were on the topic. A new partnership with two Fijian villages was launched, raising funds to provide two boats so that when the waters rise the people can reach safe ground. We were joined in the afternoon by a choir of Fijian Christians who sang traditional songs and brightened our gathering in their family matched clothing. A play, written by Irene, focussing on climate issues provided laughter as well as a serious message. We rounded off the day with a 'green communion' led by Rev. Ruth Fry. A memorable day.

Continued overleaf

Most recently I travelled to Braintree for the World Federation Day 'Water for Life, Water of Life'. The members at Braintree provided a warm welcome, and we shared worship, Bible study and factual information in talks and workshops, checking on our parallel group in Darlington who were also celebrating 80 years of the World Federation. One could only reflect how very fortunate we are to have easy access to clean fresh water – surely it should be available for all? Let us all help reach that goal by 2030.

So, as Autumn sets in with the change of the clocks, and we look forward to the busy season of meetings and preparations, I wish you much joy, and a sense of God's peace as we share in various ways together.

Hilary

To invite Hilary to speak at your church, meeting or event, email her at: president@mwib.org.uk

Looking for a challenge?

We are seeking volunteers to fill two exciting and important roles within Methodist Women in Britain:

MWiB President / Vice President: 2020–2024

MWiB is an independent charity with roots firmly planted within the Methodist Church. We aim to encourage and equip women through creative spirituality, a focus on the World Church, global social justice, and enabling and resourcing women around the world.

A home-based voluntary role, you will work as part of a small executive team and a UK-wide Forum of Methodist district representatives. There will be extensive UK travel and opportunity to visit overseas partners.

This rewarding role offers the opportunity to lead and share in the forward planning of our work, and to meet in fellowship and worship with people across the UK and beyond. You will bring administrative competence and a commitment to our values, along with your own skills and experience, and a love of people and of the church.



World Federation Area Officer: 2021–2026

A voluntary role as President of the Europe: Britain and Ireland Area of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, whose primary aim is 'to know Christ and to make him known'. The Area President is also a member of the MWiB Executive, and works closely with them in meeting our shared aims.

The role involves being a link between Methodist Women in Britain, the World Federation, and our global church partners, and as well as a love for the World Church, you will bring administrative, creative, and leadership skills.



Methodist Women
in Britain



World Federation
of Methodist and
Uniting Church Women

To arrange an informal conversation telephone: 0300 030 9873
Application packs available by email from: admin@mwib.org.uk
Deadline: 10th December 2019 Interviews: January 2020

MWiB is looking for a new

RESOURCES OFFICER

With immediate effect, Liz Marriott is 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





Water for Life, Water of Life

Jude Simms reports on the 2019 World Federation Day events held in Braintree and Darlington on Saturday 26th October in this, the World Federation's 80th Anniversary year.

Photos above: All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development)

Around 70 people met at Elm Ridge Methodist Church in Darlington, and more than 30 at Christchurch in Braintree, to consider Sustainable Development Goal 6, looking at the joint issues of accessibility of clean water and provision of sanitation systems for all people.

Participants were warmly welcomed to each venue by the local hosts, who also led opening worship and prayers. MWiB Communications Officer Jude Simms presented the Bible Study in Darlington, looking at the importance of water in creation and issues of justice and provision for the poor highlighted in the Old Testament, while in Braintree Carolyn Lawrence, World Federation Officer, led a study on 'Living Water', based on the story of the woman at the well in John's gospel. This was followed by a Keynote Address from MWiB President Hilary Evans (Braintree) and Vice President Sandra Goodwin (Darlington) based on information provided by the charity WaterAid.

After a hot lunch provided by our hosts, participants visited three short workshop sessions. In Braintree: "Wherever the river flows, life will flourish" (led by Matt Forsyth of All We Can); "Toilets, Taps and Teaching" (Madeleine Cooter-Baker, Toilet Twinning); and "Let Justice Roll Like Rivers" (Chris Rose, Amos Trust). In Darlington the All We Can workshop was led by our British Helen Kim Scholar Rachel Allison, and Toilet Twinning by Michelle Carlisle, while the third workshop, "The Transforming Power of Water" was led by David Horncastle of WellFound. We heard about the work of these four organisations, including stories of real people for whom simple provision of the things we take for granted, like clean, safe drinking water, decent toilets, and hand-washing facilities, has literally saved and transformed lives, and participants went away with lots of ideas and resources to take back to their churches and groups.

The day finished with worship together, led by World Federation President Alison Judd (Braintree) and MWiB Finance Officer Nina Rawlins (Darlington), before tea, cake, and departures.



Bible study with Jude Simms



Alison Judd leads worship



Matt Forsyth, All We Can



'Water of Life', Darlington



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) a gift – something nice, new, home-made, perhaps – something that you would be pleased to receive yourself. All the gifts must be nicely wrapped—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 the gift(s) you donate, 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'**.

Methodist Women's Collection

Heritage and Archives Partnership

MWiB continues to work in partnership with Epworth Old Rectory to tell the story of Methodist women, collecting together documents and artefacts, and curating exhibitions at the Rectory.

Gillian Crawley, the Rectory's Curator, would be happy to receive any items into the archive, which is continually growing. She is particularly keen to add to the archive a collection of past issues of **Magnet Magazine** which, as you know, began life as the 'MAGazine of NETwork'.

If you have any copies of Magnet you're willing to donate, or any other items you would like to see preserved in the collection, please email Gillian:

curator@epwortholdrectory.org.uk,
or send items, with a covering letter, to:
Epworth Old Rectory, 1 Rectory St,
Epworth, Doncaster DN9 1HX





Meet a Mission Partner

Our Woman in Rome

Mission Partner Fiona Kendall works with Mediterranean Hope, a project of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI), funded by the Waldensian and Methodist Churches. Here she writes about MH's varied and important work among migrants and refugees:

No two days in the Mediterranean Hope office are the same. The project was born in 2013 in response to a tragic shipwreck off Lampedusa in which 368 people drowned, and a small team still works there. However, the project now encompasses a reception centre in Sicily for forty vulnerable migrants, an initiative in Calabria supporting exploited agricultural workers, a team in Lebanon working with candidates for our Humanitarian Corridors programme and, in addition, the Rome team to which I am seconded.

This team directly supports migrants based locally but also plays a central role in co-ordinating these diverse projects – and in conceiving new ones. Raising awareness about migration issues, countering toxic narratives and communicating are key, as is political engagement at a national, European and international level.

In October, the Rome team hosted a two-day conference for faith leaders from fifteen European countries to develop our proposal for European Humanitarian Corridors. So, in that week alone, for example, one day may have been spent quietly working on the concept note; another, liaising with delegates about their practical needs; another, chairing the conference; yet another, discussing the proposal with policy-makers... And today, with everyone else, wiping down shelves and discarding ancient paperwork as we prepare to re-fit the office.

As I say, no two days in the Mediterranean Hope office are the same!



Fiona



The need for 'countering toxic narratives'

Above right: 'Humanitarian Corridors': offering humanitarian protection to migrants in need

Right: Migrants and refugees on board the 'Open Arms', a rescue vessel working in the Mediterranean.



World Day of Prayer: New Methodist Rep announced

We are delighted to announce that Revd Charity Madenyika has been appointed as the new World Day of Prayer Rep for the Methodist Church. As well as her duties on the National Committee, she will serve as WDP Rep on the MWiB Forum, providing an important and valued link between the two organisations. Charity is an ordained Methodist Presbyterian currently serving in Loughborough, and has served Forum as Chaplain for the last two years.



*New WDP Rep, Revd
Charity Madenyika*

In welcoming Charity, though, we must say goodbye to Irene Hayes as she retires from the role. We thank Irene for all that she's brought to our meetings, the timely words and humour she's brought to our discussions, and her careful, prayerful presence among us. We wish her well for all that God has in store for her in the future.



There are several ways in which you can pray with and for the World Federation, MWiB, and MWI:

~ Prayer Diary: December 2019—February 2020 ~
A quarterly diary of events, meetings and issues for prayer, including a list of MWiB and MWI officers and reps.

~ World Federation 'Call to Pray' ~
A monthly prayer sheet written by World President Alison Judd, for praying with women around the world

~ MWiB Prayer for the Week ~
A new prayer and reflection each week, written this year by Revd Claire Rawlinson

All available to download from our website:
www.mwib.org.uk

Events and Resources:

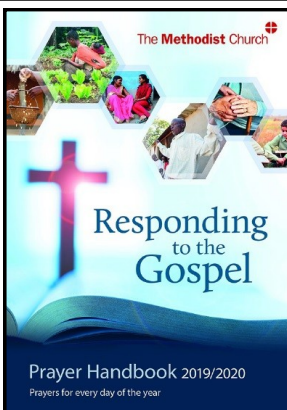
news from partner organisations



Do something Extraordinary this Christmas!

As we celebrate the amazing truth of Immanuel, God with us, we can also support *All We Can* and enable someone else's potential to be fulfilled this Christmas season: instead of buying another present, perhaps this year you could give an **Extraordinary Gift**? This might be 'Build a Bog' for a community in Zimbabwe, or a 'Safe Place to Play' for refugees in Syria, or one of several other gifts available through *All We Can*. Visit allwecan.org.uk/Christmas to find out more and order yours today. You can also download resources for your churches to use over the Advent and Christmas season.

You can support *All We Can* throughout the year by inviting your church to become an *All We Can Partner Church* – visit allwecan.org.uk/partner for more information.



Methodist Prayer Handbook 2019/2020 Have you got yours?

Inspired by the Methodist Church's 'Our Calling', this year's prayer handbook focuses on 'Responding to the Gospel' and explores how we can respond through prayer and action. Cost £3.95 (£3.50 / ten or more) Large print edition available.

Available to order from
www.methodistpublishing.org.uk



This year's Advent Offering for the Mission in Britain Fund focuses on 'homelessness and hospitality', with first-hand stories from people with experience of homelessness, who are being helped by the Bristol Methodist Centre.

Downloadable resources include a Candle Liturgy, suggested prayers, hymns and Bible verses, a short video, PowerPoint, role play and talking points, as well as suggestions on practical ways you can put your faith into action and help the homeless.

You can order Advent Offering envelopes from:
www.methodistpublishing.org.uk

Downloadable resources available from:
www.methodist.org.uk

NB: Please note that Advent Offering is a Methodist Church initiative and is not connected with MWiB.

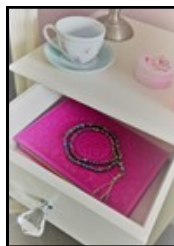


*A listening and welcoming community,
enabling safe spaces for honest
and creative dialogue*

Two unusual exhibitions have resulted from Touchstone's work with women from various faith backgrounds:

Extraordinary Drawers

Often our life stories remain hidden away. Extraordinary Drawers is a photographic exhibition which uses the hidden worlds inside our drawers to peek into the everyday lives of ordinary people.



Weaving Women's Wisdom

Wisdom is a common theme in all faith traditions. This creative project encouraged groups to talk about their wisdom and to make a rug! The resulting exhibition is on tour around Britain.



For more details about these exhibitions, or to book the exhibition for your own venue, contact: leader@touchstone-bradford.org.uk or visit: www.touchstone-bradford.org.uk



Renewal and Rebellion
Faith, Economy and Climate

7 March 2020
The Riverside Centre, Derby

The Joint Public Issues Team's 2020 national conference invites you to join in looking at the big challenges we all face – rethinking economic structures and taking radical steps towards climate justice, and how we can all act to change them – in faith, for people and for planet.

For more information visit: www.jointpublicissues.org.uk

MWiB EXECUTIVE MEETINGS: 20th November 2019 and 8th January 2020
MWiB FORUM MEETINGS: 22nd–23rd February and 26th–27th September 2020
If you have any issues to raise or questions to ask, please speak to your Forum Rep.

Forthcoming Events

Travelling in hope

Swanwick 2020 Residential Weekend



Friday 3rd—Sunday 5th April 2020

with keynote speaker: Jill Baker

**Time for worship, fellowship, and learning;
time to make or renew friendships;
time to relax together or find quiet space;
time to share conversation and visit the Market Place.**

Single and shared en-suite accommodation available.
Crèche and children's activities provided.

Cost: £175 full board

* Bursaries are available for first time attendees *

For more information, booking forms, bursary forms,
and online payment visit: www.mwib.org.uk
email: admin@mwib.org.uk or tel: 0300 030 9873



**World Federation
of Methodist and
Uniting Church Women**

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



Save the dates—and start saving your pennies!

We will again be fundraising to enable women
from the poorer areas of Europe to join us at
the Assembly – see p. 3 for details of
'Gifts for Gothenburg'

Contact us:

MWiB President:	Hilary Evans	president@mwib.org.uk
Vice President:	Sandra Goodwin	vicepresident@mwib.org.uk
WFM&UCW Officer:	Carolyn Lawrence	wfmucw@mwib.org.uk
Finance Officer:	Nina Rawlins	finance@mwib.org.uk
Communications Officer:	Jude Simms	communications@mwib.org.uk
Resources Officer:	Vacancy—see p.2	resources@mwib.org.uk
General enquiries:	0300 030 9873	admin@mwib.org.uk

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Visit us:

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

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Methodist Women in Britain



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