

## “Connecting women in Britain with women worldwide”

As the British Unit of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFM&UCW) **MWIB** is part of a family of women around the world. This family listens to one another (through the Tree of Life international newsletter and the website [www.wfmucw.org](http://www.wfmucw.org)), prays for one another and occasionally gets together. Keep watching the website or newsletters as we plan for the European Seminar in Pomezia, near Rome, in June 2014 and the next world assembly in 2016 – destination unknown at time of going to press!

Vital connections with the worldwide family are also made through the World Church Relationships team, with whom we work closely. The Easter Offering service, written by **MWIB**, raises in excess of £200,000 for the World Mission Fund each year.

In 2013 the service was largely written by Julie Hulme, along with a group which included Forum member for East Anglia, Jackie Smith, who reflects on the theme, **Beyond the harbour wall:**



Jackie Smith

*“What does it feel like to set out on a journey into the unknown? In a very small way this has been my experience - I have been to places I didn't expect, I have done things I hadn't done before and learnt new ways of working. But in it all I felt that Jesus was with the group and travelling with us all.”*



### *Dalit solidarity:*

A major piece of work in this past year has been the production of a pack on Dalit Solidarity, enabling individuals, groups and churches to engage with this huge issue of global injustice. The pack is available from the Administrator, and includes information, material for meetings and services and ideas for action. Following the visit of the incoming **MWIB** President, Linda Crossley, to the Church in North India in February, we have entered into a partnership relationship with CNI, supporting them in their desire to provide education for Dalit girls and to employ more Women's Empowerment Workers.

### *Keep in touch:*

Visit our website [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk) and sign up to receive quarterly mailings and monthly e-bulletins.

For general **MWIB** enquiries, contact the Administrator:  
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### *Contact the executive:*

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### *Child domestic workers:*

Our formal partnership with the small charity **Children Unite**, which works to improve the conditions and rights for the 15.5 million child domestic workers around the world, continued throughout the year. The presentation of hundreds of signed rubber gloves to the UK government in July 2013 is a mark of our strength of support for the ratification of the ILO convention on the rights of child domestic workers. Just as rubber gloves protect our hands from harsh chemicals, so young children need to be given protection from abuse and exploitation.



**MWiB**

MWiB is a movement within the Methodist Church of Great Britain.  
Registered Charity No. 1132208



# Methodist Women in Britain

*Annual Report 2012-13*

[www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)

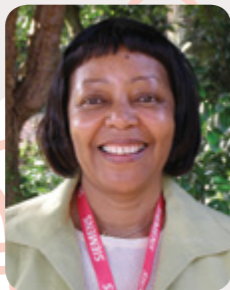
**Methodist Women in Britain (MWIB)** is about more than Methodism, more than women and more than Britain!

It is a movement within the Methodist Church which offers resources and activities, particularly for women, with an emphasis on creative spirituality and global social justice. It is self-governing and self-funding, but operates across the Connexion and is linked closely with many parts of the Connexional Team.

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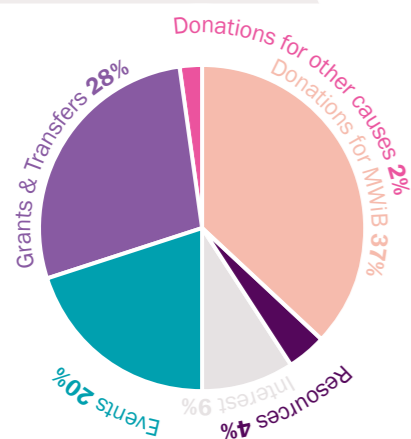
## “Bringing women together to know Christ and to make him known”

**MWiB** operates at all levels across the British Methodist Church and beyond. It is a non-membership movement, which invites anyone interested to ‘dip in’. As well as local meetings in many churches, circuits and districts, there is an annual residential weekend in April which, in 2013, took the theme of the Methodist prayer handbook, “**Crossing the chasm**”. The conference was a sell-out, and covered a wide range of related topics including diversity in the church, women’s literacy worldwide, work with prisoners and ex-offenders, how the church relates to those with learning disabilities or mental health issues and MRDF’s work with Dalit women in Nepal.



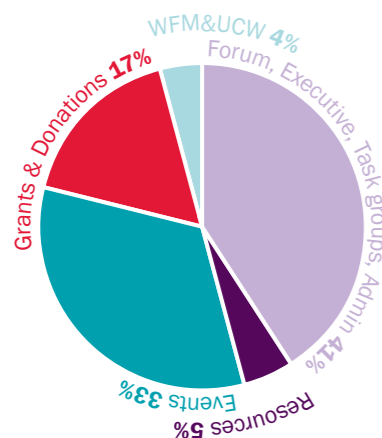
*“I have attended the MWiB Conference for more than eight years. I feel I have grown spiritually over this period. Each year I look forward to being at the Swanwick Conference. I enjoy being among so many other Methodist women of all ages, from diverse backgrounds, who come from all over Britain to share, learn, encourage and empower each other. This, for me, represents what God intends us to do, that is to live among each other, share our gifts in song and fellowship and to celebrate our diversity. I have particularly enjoyed the last three years when I have been involved in the planning of the Conference and leading some of the Conference sessions. It has been a great joy to be part of such a unique Church family. I remain encouraged and challenged by MWiB’s mission.”* **Josephine Muchopa**

**Where does the money come from and where does it go to? The following charts give some idea; for more information, please contact the MWiB Administrator, details on back cover.**



### Summary of Income

In 2011-12 **MWiB** received the balance of Connexional set-up grants and money was transferred in from former **Women’s Network** and **WFMUCW** accounts. In future donations will be the main source of income.



### Summary of Expenditure

One of the Social and Community Action Grants given in 2011-12 was £500 to the **Bethesda Kids Cafe** in Bristol, enabling them to buy equipment for a new mission opportunity with local families. See back cover for how to apply.

## “Encouraging, equipping and enabling women to serve God in the church, the community and the world”

**MWiB** could be compared to a specialist health practitioner who, by focussing on the particular needs of one part of the body, contributes to the overall health of the body/church. One-day conferences in 2012-13 equipped women in different ways;

- In October 2012 in Mansfield we looked at our responses to Millennium Development Goal 7, **Ensuring environmental sustainability** as individual disciples and as a church. We were challenged about the urgency of this via a live Skype conversation with Julia Edwards, mission partner in Fiji, working with the Pacific Conference of Churches as they address the huge impact of climate change.
- In May 2013 in Slough, Christian artist Yvonne Bell led our thoughts in a day called **Come to us, Creative Spirit** which included lots of hands-on activities, as well as workshops in **Creative committee meetings** and **Music and audiology**.



*“Leading scientists believe that our human activities are almost certainly causing the current climate change. We need to take personal action to minimise our use of resources, buy less, drive less, fly less and be more mindful of our connectedness and responsibilities to others in all that we do.”*

*The people of the Pacific have deep faith, and many put their trust in God that he will look after their needs. But they will also take comfort from the knowledge that other people care about their situation and want to do something about it. There is always hope in action and accompaniment, we can all respond and act together.”*

**Julia Edwards**  
Environmental Sustainability

*“Creativity has always been an important part of my life...As I get older I am becoming more aware that many people believe that there is a ‘time and a place’ for creativity in the church, no matter how much I disagree! That is why I am so excited to be a part of the MWiB Creativity Day. It’s a fantastic opportunity to introduce creativity as a way of living and worshipping as a normal thing, not superfluous or something for ‘all-age’.*

*Another thing I am excited about is the inclusion of children. Children and young people are themselves a force of creativity, with curious questions which can impact upon the life of the church.”*



**Sarah Malik**  
Creativity Day

The website is another place of encouragement, equipping and enabling, where you can find bible studies, prayers, ideas for action on the MDGs, resources from a range of partner organisations and much more. Each day during Advent 2012, meditations appeared on the website written by women - Christians and Jews - who have lived or worked in Israel/Palestine. It proved to be a powerful and challenging series, which is still accessible under “Resources”.

Sunrise on the West Bank  
by **Elizabeth Burroughs**



# Autumn

## 8 days to change the world!

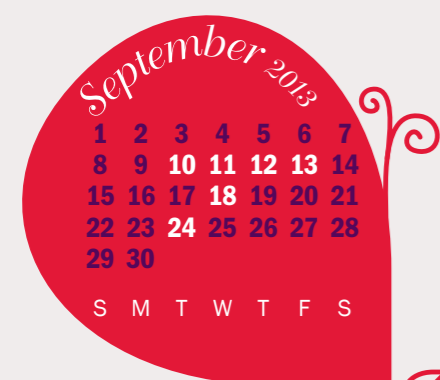
Since 2006 the action plan for all Methodist women's movements around the world has been based on the 8 United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

- Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat AIDS/HIV, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Establish global partnerships for development

This October, around World Federation Day on 26th, MWiB is planning an eight-day focus to stimulate prayer and action on these goals. Visit the website each day from Sunday 20th October to find out more.

### Autumn dates:

- September 10-13th:**  
World Methodist Council meets at Wesley's Chapel, London
- September 18th:**  
MWiB executive meeting at Methodist Church House, London
- September 24th:**  
MWiB Stakeholders' Forum at Methodist Church House, London
- October 6th:**  
Bi-centenary of Methodist missions at Leeds Minster
- October 20-27th:**  
8 days to change the world – focus on the MDGs (see above)
- October 26-27th:**  
MWiB Forum autumn meeting – Swanwick, Derbyshire
- November 7-9th:**  
MWiB executive officers' retreat, Pershore
- November 18th:**  
MWiB executive meeting at Methodist Church House, London

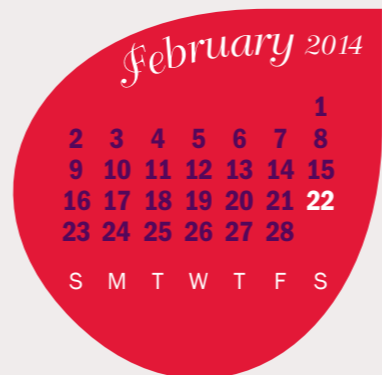
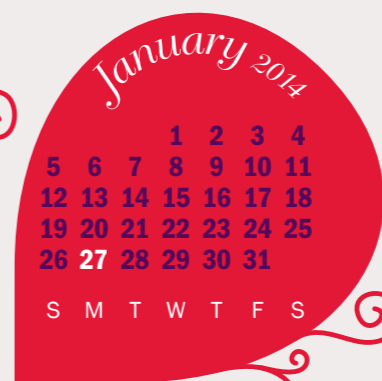


**Kathleen Pearson** November 2011  
From Prayer of the week [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)

### A prayer for courage:

Lord, I pray for courage to be myself today.  
To live life as it comes,  
welcoming life with its challenges and joys.  
I thank you for making me,  
for giving me life, imagination and personality.  
Teach me to live today.  
Help me to see that holiness and love are yours to give  
and that in living with you  
everything I do can bear your imprint  
and can be a blessing to all I meet.  
Amen

# Winter



### Winter dates:

- December 1st:**  
First Sunday in Advent
- December 25th:**  
Christmas Day
- January 27th:**  
MWiB executive meeting at Methodist Church House, London
- February 22nd:**  
MWiB Forum meeting, London

### Watching and Waiting as Women in Advent

In November 2012, 30 Methodist women gathered at Green Pastures Christian Retreat Centre for a pre-Advent retreat led by Jill Baker and Alison Judd.

The material was based around the ancient "O Antiphon" prayers of the church which pick up the whispers of Mary to her unborn child and repeat them as cries of the church universal, urging Jesus to come...

### A prayer of waiting

We wait in darkness for the Light to dawn.  
We wait in turmoil for Peace to come.  
We wait in sorrow for Joy to appear.  
Come, Lord Jesus,  
come to our world again.  
Light up our darkness,  
bring peace to our hearts  
and may we know the joy of your everlasting presence today  
and every day.  
Amen

**Kathleen Pearson** December 2011  
From Prayer of the week [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)

O come...  
Wisdom  
Lord of might  
Root of Jesse  
Key of David  
Light of the East  
King of the nations  
O come, o come, Emmanuel

## An Easter prayer

My Lord and my God!  
When I lock myself away in my mind,  
when I lock myself away in my heart,  
you break through and offer me Peace.

When I doubt your ability to dispel my fear,  
when I doubt your ability to dispel my anxiety,  
you break through and offer me your broken body.

My Lord and my God!  
I reach out my hands to receive your Peace.  
I reach out my hands to receive your broken body!  
Send me to those who need to receive your Peace.  
Send me to those who need to know you as the Risen Lord!

My Lord and my God!  
Amen

**Kathleen Pearson** April 2012  
From Prayer of the week [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)

## Spring dates:

**March 5th:** Ash Wednesday  
**March 7th:** Women's World Day of Prayer  
**March 31st:** MWiB Executive Meeting  
**April 20th:** Easter Sunday  
**April 25-27th:** MWiB Residential weekend  
**May 10th:** Creativity Day, Elm Ridge  
Methodist Church, Darlington

## Women's World Day of Prayer

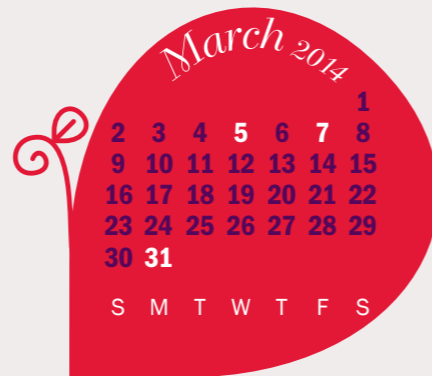
"Women's World Day of Prayer was celebrated on 1st March 2013. The service prepared by the women of France was entitled 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'. It challenged us to look at our attitudes and behaviour towards strangers who come into our community particularly, but not exclusively, foreigners. At the start a diffident 'lady in grey' anxiously approached a group of colourfully adorned ladies, expecting to be ignored or worse; instead, she was warmly received by them. The final words came from the Talmud: 'There are no strangers; there are only women and men who have not yet met'.

We left the service, vowing that we would in future offer kindness and friendship to any 'ladies in grey', and 'gentlemen in grey', who come into our community.

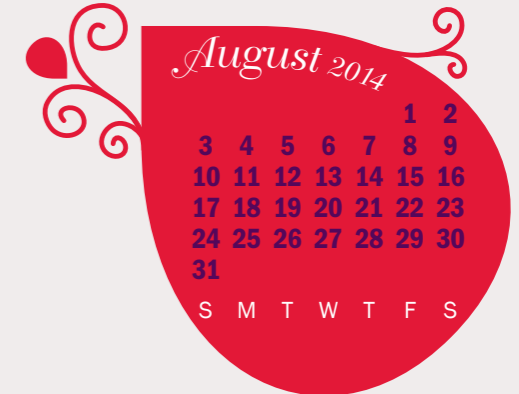
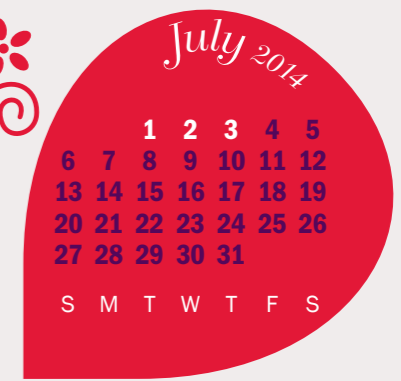
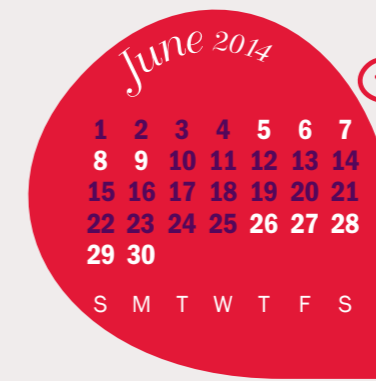
I hope that people will find 'Together in Prayer' and the children's resources useful during the rest of the year. WWDP resources are designed for use on more than one day!

In 2014 Women's World Day of Prayer will be on Friday 7th March. The service has been written by the women of Egypt and is entitled 'Streams in the Desert'."

**Elizabeth Burroughs** WWDP Forum member



# Spring



## Summer dates:

**June 5-9th:**  
WFM&UCW Joint European Areas  
Seminar in Pomezia, near Rome, Italy  
**June 26th - July 3rd:**  
Methodist Conference, Birmingham

## A prayer for cascading grace

Wonderful God,  
day by day  
your Grace is poured out on me.  
Blessings cascade from the Heart of heaven  
through your Word  
and through the many who have nurtured me in faith.  
Thank you for your boundless Grace:  
thank you for your Word  
and for those who spoke it and lived it,  
teaching me the benefits and blessings of faith.  
May my life be an outpouring of your wonderful grace,  
so that many others will be blessed  
by all that you have done for me  
in Jesus.  
Let my life be a constant prayer of thanksgiving  
for your glory.  
Amen

**Kathleen Pearson** June 2012  
From Prayer of the week [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)

## Some of the ways money is used...

**Pounds for Pomezia:** As the British Unit of WFM&UCW we have the opportunity to support our sisters in small European units by giving to a fund to enable more of them to attend the seminar in Italy in 2014.

**Dalit Partnership:** Our solidarity with Dalit people is being expressed through our commitment to the Church in North India to raise funds which will make a real difference to the lives of Dalit women and girls.

**Empowerment gifts in 2012-13:** were sent to the Methodist Women's Training Centre, Kumasi, Ghana; to the anti-trafficking work being done by Pellegrino della Terra in Palermo, Sicily and to pay the annual levy for a number of smaller units of the WFM&UCW.

**Social & Community Action Grants in 2012-13:** were given 9 pieces of work by or for women around the Connexion. Visit [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk) to apply for 2013-14.

**General costs:** include the expenses of meetings and volunteers; the employment of a part-time Administrator, publication of newsletters, resources and materials, the website and makes the above giving possible.

# Summer