

Annual Review

2022—2023





Methodist Women in Britain

For women, for justice, for Christ

Methodist Women in Britain is a self financing volunteer run charity within the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

As Christian women we are open to working with all and welcome women of all denominations and none to participate in our activities. At many events men are also welcome to join us. We work ecumenically but value our identity and place as Methodist women within the wider sisterhood of the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women, of which MWiB forms the British Unit.

Our aims are three-fold:

- ~ to bring women together, encouraging one another to know Christ and to make him known, as Methodist women and as part of the wider Church in the world;
- ~ to encourage, resource and train women members of the Methodist Church, equipping them to participate more fully in the wider church and in society;
- ~ to connect women in Britain with women overseas, working in partnership with others to raise awareness of and act upon issues of social justice around the world.

We do this by:

- ~ providing fellowship and training events, including the annual residential conference, pilgrimage opportunities, and one-day events;
- ~ producing print and online resources and publications, for worship and spiritual growth, and for advocating and providing information on issues of social concern;
- ~ highlighting areas of need and raising funds or providing other goods or services to support partners and agencies working to alleviate poverty and injustice.

The MWiB Trustees are the main decision-making body of the charity. Outside of Trustee meetings the work of MWiB is taken forward by an Executive team: Two CoChairs, Finance Officer, Communications Officer, Digital Media Coordinator, World Federation Officer and Helen Kim Memorial Scholar. Twelve Trustees represent between them the 28 Methodist Districts, their work supported by District Ambassadors. The Methodist representative on the England & Wales World Day of Prayer committee is also a Trustee member.

The work, activities, events and campaigns undertaken by MWiB are largely based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and everything we do falls under one or more of four main areas: **Creative Spirituality; World Church Focus; Global Social Justice; Resourcing & Enabling**. Our website: www.mwib.org.uk has the latest news about MWiB.

Trustees

at September 2023



Executive

CoChair North	Ruth Parrott
CoChair South	Maggie Woods
Finance Officer	Nina Rawlins
Communications Officer	Bronwen Braisdell
Digital Media Coordinator	Ruth Dawson
WFUMCW President Britain & Ireland	Barbara Easton
Helen Kim Memorial Scholar	Madeleine Reed

Area Trustees

East Anglia / Lincolnshire	Rita Rowe
Scotland / Shetland	Barbara Harrison
Cornwall / Plymouth & Exeter	Elaine Banks
Birmingham / Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury / Mid Wales	Diana Bosman
London / Bedfordshire, Essex & Hertfordshire / South East	Linda King
Yorkshire North & East / Yorkshire West / Sheffield	Janice Clark
Darlington / Newcastle / Cumbria	Debs Coggrave
Nottingham & Derby / Northampton	Mary Gill
Bolton & Rochdale / Lancashire	Philippa Hill
Liverpool / Chester & Stoke / North Wales / Manchester & Stockport	Margaret Lindley
Bristol / South Wales	Gillian Pengelly
Southampton / Channel Islands	Liz Chick
World Day of Prayer	Charity Madenyika

Trustees meet at least twice a year in person or online.

Executive meet online at least 10 times in the year in addition to the Trustee meetings.

A Finance Task Group meets 5 times a year.

Whenever possible MWiB seeks to work in partnership with other organisations whose work is in line with our own aims and purposes. The aims and activities of Methodist Women in Britain are summed up in our mission statement: For women, for justice, for Christ

Methodist Women in Britain : Review of 2022/2023

This year has been one of planning and restructuring Methodist Women in Britain. During covid, most of our meetings and committee meetings had to be online and people were reluctant to mix, the role of President increased as we became more dependent on technology, and it became obvious that MWiB needed to change too. Therefore, we have split the role of the President. We welcomed Maggie Woods in the role of Co-Chair South, at the February Forum and Ruth Parrott has now become Co-Chair North. We have reduced the number of Trustees, each now being responsible for an Area consisting of two or three Districts, which each have an Ambassador, with whom they are asked to keep in regular contact. This will enable us to improve the line of communication between local meetings and the Executive.

In September we held a webinar with Deeptima Massey, as the speaker about her journey of Faith from India to Brighton. In October Forum, the new strategy was discussed and finalised and the appointment of Maggie Woods as Co-Chair North was ratified. The World Federation Day held in Gloucester in October focused on 'Climate Change'. The Executive Committee's Retreat took place in November at The Oblate Retreat Centre, Willaston, Crewe, led by Rev Helen Stubbs. Ruth Dawson was appointed as our Digital Media Coordinator, in January, and she is enabling us to increase our use of social media to advertise events. Phil Davies is now in charge of our website and together with Bronwen Braisdell, our Communications Officer, are keeping it up to date. Most of our online events are recorded and placed on our MWiB YouTube Channel.

Ruth Parrott, as President, visited Colombia, in January, organised by the Global Relations Team and hosted by the Iglesia Colombiana Metodista and CEPALC. The visit was based on the Sustainable Development Goals of Gender Equality, Education for All and Climate Change, all of which are having an influence on the lives of the indigenous people of Colombia. The February Forum was held on Zoom and included the Induction of Maggie Woods as Co-Chair. We welcomed Maggie and said goodbye and thank you to Hilary Evans, Vice President, and also to members of Forum who had completed their term of office. Hilary Evans wrote the Easter Offering Service for 2023 entitled 'No Borders to God's Love'

The Swanwick Conference was held in April, on the theme of 'Voices in Harmony', with Pam Rhodes, the television presenter as keynote speaker on 'Hymns and Hers' and Rev Jenny Pathmarajah, spoke on 'The Influence of Rock and Roll on Worship Songs'. Two major initiatives launched this year, the first being a series of webinars based on Women's Health, entitled 'Bodies of Faith'. The second, was the launching of 'The Mary Bosanquet Lecture' in June as a Fringe event at Methodist Connexional Conference at which the keynote speaker was Canon Dr Paula Gooder.

In June we hosted Sister Santusa, the President of Women in Bolivia. The language barrier was a challenge so interpreters had to be found, but it was a delight to take her to our Heritage Sites, women's meetings and to share our faith. In July we held a 'Creativity Day' at Stamford Methodist Church. Sheila Hall was interviewed for the post of Finance Officer and began shadowing Nina Rawlins in July.

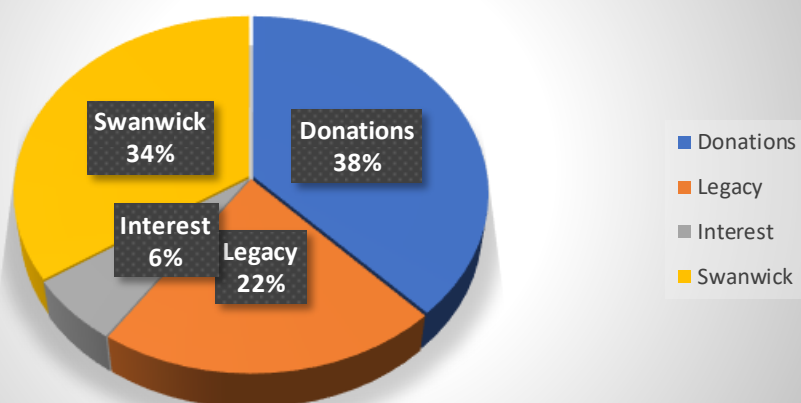
This year has been one of adjustment to a new situation. Our new structure is in its infancy and is being constantly reviewed. We have embraced new initiatives and supported women both at home and abroad. We continue to work 'for women, for justice, for Christ' *Ruth Parrott (CoChair North)*

Finance—Nina Rawlins

MWiB is self-financing, primarily through donations and the occasional bequest, enabling us to fund the running of the movement, to under-write our activities, events and resources, and to offer gifts, grants and bursaries to enable and empower women and girls through different projects.

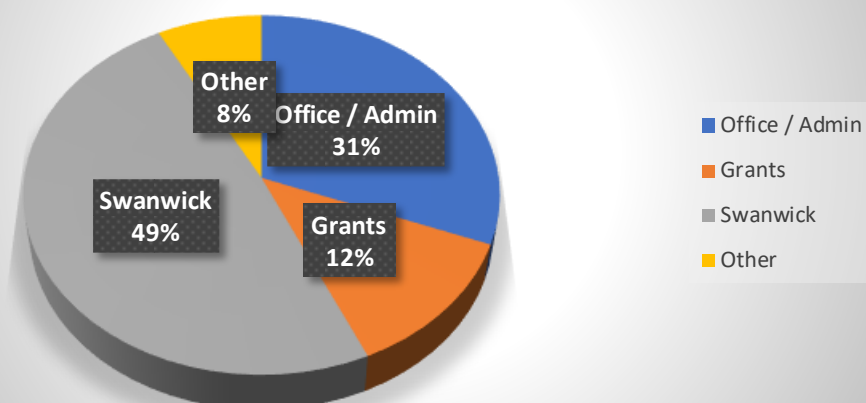
For more information about grants, gifts and bursaries available visit 'Resourcing & Enabling' on our website: www.mwib.org.uk or contact our Finance Officer: finance.mwib@gmail.com

Income to 31st August '23



Income	£
Donations	33000
Legacy	18869
Interest	5300
Swanwick	29976

Expenses to 31st August '23



Expenses	£
Office / Admin	24016
Grants	9644
Swanwick	38029
Other	6058

Empowerment Gifts 2022

Resourcing and Enabling

In 2022 MWIB awarded an Empowerment Gift to three projects totalling £8,100.

Kenya - £1,500 – Kitchen Garden Project



Supporting over 300 patients in 32 kitchen gardens at Maua Hospital on the palliative programme, teaching them how to plant and grow food has improved their health and provided them with an improved financial situation. Food grown has been kale, spinach, tomatoes and fruit trees such as oranges and mangoes which grow well in that area.

Mothers taking home some produce from the demonstration kitchen garden after being trained.

Uganda - £3,000



Supporting disabled teenage mothers and women to realise their potential in Iganga and Kamuli Districts and raising community awareness of the needs and rights of people with disabilities and misconceptions in communities about people with disabilities who abuse them out of ignorance.

The photos, show a training workshop in entrepreneurship skills for the disabled women and teenage mothers, some were lame, deaf and two blind.



Kenya - £3,600 – Tailoring Project

Supporting two workshops benefitting women of different ages with sewing techniques, enabling them to support themselves financially and learning new skills. Many of the women are sole breadwinners and the money raised means they are able to feed themselves and their families. The second workshop taught the women to produce quality items including laptop cases, wrap skirts, jackets as well as school uniforms.

In February 2023 the group were able to open a shop in the local market using money that had been given by MWIB to provide a reliable outlet for their sewn goods. The unit has succeeded in securing school uniform contracts with local schools, largely helped by the good relationship between the unit and the local community. Being within the church compound the unit is very much seen as being there to support the community.



Each year Methodist Women in Britain donates up to £10,000 to projects working to empower women and girls overseas.

All the recipients of gifts made in 2022 wished to thank Methodist Women in Britain for their support in enabling these projects to happen and make a difference to their lives.

Pastoral Care Fund

Resourcing and Enabling

Through the generosity of MWiB we have been able to express care to older or vulnerable people in our community - some connected with the church, some not – at Christmas and Easter by preparing and distributing small packs, appropriate to the season. These have been greatly appreciated – feedback has indicated how much it means to be remembered. We have prepared approximately 60 packs each time. Where we can take them personally, we do, but we are only a small group and in a rural area like this, some people live in more remote places so posting their pack is necessary. Many of the people we know have multiple needs, and worse mobility, so rarely, if at all, go out. Others struggle with extra caring responsibilities which can mean they are less able to go out, leaving their partner unattended. We see this kind of pastoral care as a priority for our Circuit MWiB group. ***East Cumbria Circuit Methodist Women in Britain*** (until 1st Sept 2023 we were the Kirkoswald & Alston Moor Circuit)



Global Social Justice

Partnering with All We Can I chose AGLIT+ as my President's project. This project runs in Malawi and is a scheme which enables adolescent girls who have received little or no schooling to resume their education. AGLIT+ (Adolescent Girls Literacy project) will also enable girls to find employment or even to start their own businesses, helping them to raise their families out of poverty. Through local & district fundraising, and collections taken when I have been out to speak over £6000 has been raised to support this work. ***Ruth Parrott.***

Gifts of £3000 each have been sent this year to support the work of two organisations who work with displaced people. One is the Mary Loreto Ward Foundation in Albania where Sister Imelda Poole, a speaker at the online Swanwick Conference of 2021, works with young people to prevent human trafficking, and works to rescue and rehabilitate survivors of trafficking. The second was Mediterranean Hope, a refugee project in Italy, where one of our 2022 Swanwick Conference speakers, Fiona Kendall, works as a Mission Partner. Both projects received the gifts gratefully as their work is both ongoing and increasing in need.

MWiB Creativity Day

Held in July at Stamford Methodist Church, about 30 women (and men) from across the country enjoyed a day of fun, fellowship and creativity. With the choice of a guided walk to explore Stamford's history, and workshops in collage making, creative weaving, and creative writing, there was ample time to learn something new, share stories and appreciate the breadth of Methodist culture.



Easter Offering Service 2023

The Easter Offering Service for 2023 'No Borders to God's Love', was prompted by issues of people forced from their homes, becoming migrants and refugees.

Routes to safety and adapting to life in new places bring many challenges and often trauma. The service however, considered the hopes for a better future, and included stories of support given by churches in Britain, to enable those displaced to adapt to their new environments, and begin new lives. So, although there were elements of sadness, the overriding emphasis was positive.

Feedback about the service has been overwhelmingly positive, and raised £196,166.92p for the work of the Methodist Mission Fund, by November 2023. At the time of writing there could be a little more money to come in, It is worth noting that every year, every penny donated goes directly to the World Mission Fund to support partners churches and Mission Partners, as well as providing emergency funding where necessary, in various parts of the world.

Hilary Evans



Webinars

MWiB has begun a series of webinars on women's health, called Bodies of Faith. The first, held in the spring, brought together two speakers with long experience of the health service, one as a doctor and the other a 'service user'. They both spoke powerfully about their lives and work in the hospital setting, and gave powerful testimony about the relationship between their service and their faith. This webinar can be viewed on the Methodist You Tube channel.

Barbara Easton

Mary Bosanquet Inaugural Lecture

The Tuesday evening of Methodist Conference week in Birmingham this year saw a significant gathering of Methodist people in a large conference room. Many were conference delegates, but some had travelled considerable distances to hear the inaugural Mary Bosanquet lecture, entitled 'Reading Between the Lines' – Finding women in the stories of the Bible even though they look as if they are not there and given by Dr Paula Gooder. Paula is Canon Chancellor of St. Paul's Cathedral, a well known theologian, author and lecturer.

Her lecture focused on the lives of women in the bible who were present in many of the situations we read about, but so often were 'hidden' in the text, and rarely named. Paula encouraged everyone to apply imagination to the stories to add sensible details to what is written and build pictures of real people. She used a wealth of historical information to help build the pictures.

This initiative for Methodist Women in Britain was received well, so although the original concept for the lectures was biannual, it has been decided to make it an annual event.

So, the second Mary Bosanquet lecture will take place on Friday 28th June, as Methodist Conference 2024 is about to get under way. The speaker will be Chine Macdonald, director of Theos, author, speaker and broadcaster. We look forward to seeing as many as possible in Leeds for this free event. Meanwhile our first Mary Bosanquet lecture can be viewed on our You Tube channel.

Hilary Evans

Methodist Women in Britain President's Visit to Colombia:

12th - 24th January 2023

It was a wonderful privilege to visit Colombia, with Sandra Lopez, a member of the Global Relations team, in January. My visit was related to my project 'Learning Together, Learning Forever' – a theme based on the Sustainable Development Goals of: Quality Education for All, Gender Equality and Climate Change. We were hosted by Bishop Luis Andres Caicedo Guayara of the Iglesia Colombiana Metodista (Methodist Church of Colombia), focusing on Women's Ministry, Children, Teenagers and Young People's Ministry, Social justice, rights and dignity in life, Training and Vocations, during the first week. In the second week our hosts were the members of CEPALC, an organisation founded by Amparo and Felix Beltran, to promote Ecumenism, Gender Vision; human Rights and the Culture of Peace.



We flew from Bogota to Cartagena on the Caribbean Coast and our first visit was to see a church in Santa Marta, close to the Venezuelan border, where Pastor Elsy and Jamiey, the women and children's worker, are working with a group of Venezuelan women migrants and their children. The manse kitchen doubled as a church where we shared in a simple communion service. The women talked about the difficulties they experience as a result of climate change – the rationing of water, extreme weather and its effect on the crops. Classes are provided by the church for the

women in communication skills, beauty, cookery and Interior Decoration. The women were deeply grateful for the work of the Iglesia Colombiana Metodista.

We visited the Clinton Raab Methodist Clinic at Brisas del Mar, a very remote community where the Pastor, Pastor Miguel, is also a nurse. Although the State provides a lady doctor twice a week, a dentist once a week and also provides education for the children, that is the limit of its support. The Methodist Church has supplied a water source for the village, but they can only use it once a week. The pastor has set up a feeding programme for children and old people in the surrounding communities by providing a rice thresher and asking that for every 10lbs of rice that is threshed, 1lb must be given to the feeding programme. The Methodist Church provided sewing machines for the women to make bed sheets to sell, but since the pandemic, they can't afford fabric. Life is tough. Women in other villages we visited, rely on the weaving of reeds into ribbons for income. These are used to make hats, bags and bangles; for this they are paid the equivalent of £1 per day.



We visited Pastor Nubia in Sincelejo, a Venezuelan, who is working and living with Venezuelan migrants. The church is constructing 'houses' made from corrugated iron for migrant families. A plot of land beside the church is being used to teach the people how to grow fruit and vegetables but extreme weather means that fruit is damaged and unfit to eat and some vegetables cannot be grown. Torrential rain washes away the seeds.

We flew back to Bogota to visit Morca, an Andes mining community where CEPALC were leading a group of children, teenagers and young people. This is an illegal mining area where children as young as ten are expected to work in the mines. Through drama, we learned of the gender inequalities and

sexual abuse experienced by the girls and how CEPALC was helping them to be empowered and to respect their bodies. They used examples of stories of women in the Bible to get their message across. The boys were being taught to respect girls too. They were being taught how to make radio broadcasts and You Tube videos to pass the message on. I was able to share about our 'Thursday's in Black' campaign against sexual abuse. We were able to meet Felix and Amparo Beltran, Founders of CEPALC at their headquarters in Bogota and to see their studio - 'Encuentro Radio' studio, from which they broadcast across Colombia. Accompanied by Yasid Alberto Ferero, we visited a Zenu, indigenous community in San Andres which owned a radio station, supported by CEPALC. They transmitted from 5am to 7pm daily about women's rights, dignity, worth and respect. The radio station had cost £10,000 to set up. They had received a grant from the state but had to pay taxes and meet certain standards which they found difficult to meet. CEPALC trained young people to broadcast and plan programs. The transmission figures were 70,000 I was interviewed about MWiB.



The village itself has no water and there is no privacy for women – no toilet, and only a virtually open, outside shower. The women and girls had to go to the fields where they were vulnerable to sexual abuse. On the onset of menstruation, girls are eligible to be married. Girls and women have virtually no rights and if a girl becomes pregnant, the girl is blamed and not the boy. Pregnancy interrupts schooling and gives the girl a bad reputation.

CEPALC's philosophy is to empower young people, to educate girls in sexual issues, to teach them how to look after their bodies and at the same time, sending messages to boys that girls' bodies are to be respected. We also met a group of women who had been empowered by CEPALC, to stand up for their rights as women, learned to challenge the patriarchal attitudes in their communities and had begun to achieve their hopes and dreams. On our final day in San Andres, we met a group of young girls. Who had been taught by CEPALC to respect their own bodies. CEPALC provided a safe place for girls to discuss and share problems that they could not discuss with their families. These girls had educational aspirations of attending university and were determined to follow their dreams, although it meant that they would have to challenge attitudes within the family and community.

Our visit to Colombia was fascinating, amazing but exhausting. It was wonderful to see the work of Iglesia Metodista Colombiana, amongst the indigenous communities and the Venezuelan refugees and how the church and CEPALC is reacting to the situation by teaching girls and women about their rights by encouraging and empowering them, but also trying to teach the men and boys to respect girls. We thank God for the wonderful privilege of meeting the people who shared their deep but simple faith with us and for the Global Relationships Team, especially Sandra Lopez, who organised our visit.

Ruth Parrott



CEPALC

CENTRO ECUMÉNICO POPULAR PARA
AMÉRICA LATINA DE COMUNICACIÓN

Sister Santusa

In early June MWiB hosted the visit of Sister Santusa, Head of Methodist Women in Bolivia, who had been the keynote speaker at the World Mission Conference at Swanwick. She was delightful! Even though she didn't speak English and we didn't speak Spanish, with the aid of several interpreters and Google Translate, we were able to build a lovely relationship. Angela and Tim Macquiban, were able to take Santusa to a women's meeting and then to show her around Chester. I was able to take her to see the Dorothy Clive Gardens, where she showed me which plants grew in Bolivia and found native British species she had never seen before. The following day we took her to the Wedgewood Visitors Centre where she was able to see the pots being made. Bronwen Braisdell took her to a ladies' craft meeting where she taught them macrame. They visited Lincoln Cathedral and then to Epworth Old Rectory, where she was thrilled to visit Susannah's kitchen. We introduced her to Primitive Methodism at Englesea Brook and then took her to the Prim's Camp Site at Mow Cop. Road Closures on the Sunday meant a change of plans, so we visited a small rural chapel where Santusa spoke about her church in Bolivia and in the evening, she spoke at our Circuit Easter Offering Service. We have laughed, cried, and prayed together. It was an experience which myself, and those involved will never forget. Santusa and I have set up a What's App so that we can share news and also progress on Tabitha House. After four flights, which took thirty-six hours, Santusa arrived home and was greeted at the airport by her granddaughter and husband. Santusa said, 'This was an experience of a lifetime!' It was for us too.



In December 2022, MWiB Trustee Debs Coggrave met Santusa in Bolivia when she was privileged to represent the Connexion & MWiB at the Evangelical Methodist Church Assembly. She was also able to visit Tabitha House, a Women's shelter project first seen by Sandra Goodwin in her 2017 presidential visit and supported by MWiB. The project is ongoing, progress is in Bolivian time, but we continue to support the work at Tabitha House as we are able. **Ruth Parrott**

World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

It is important to Methodist Women in Britain that we belong to a much broader, worldwide network of faith. Methodism can look very different in other parts of the world and yet there is something in our DNA which binds us together as one family and heritage. This is one of the joys of the World Federation. Every couple of months we share worldwide news through the Tree of Life magazine and receive regular updates from our representatives attending the UN.



MWiB ties into the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women in a number of ways throughout the year – particularly in receiving reports from the World Federation and the annual World Federation Day in October. In 2022, the day was held in Gloucester and, as one of the first gatherings post pandemic, had a pleasing attendance. The theme of the day was 'Christian responses to the environmental crisis', with Bible study, a guest speaker and workshops featuring small group discussion and craft activities. As usual, All We Can were in attendance to assist our global thinking.

The highlight of belonging to the World Federation is being able to meet internationally, either at regional or global conventions. Due to Covid, the last world gathering was held online. This meant that the new world executive also had their first meetings virtually, so an additional exec meeting was put into the calendar for Brazil in February 2023, with representatives from across the globe. The focus of the gathered work of the executive over their tenure is supporting the work of Methodist women in their own countries and planning for the next world assembly, in 2026. In the meantime, European women are planning for their Area meeting in Porto in June 2024. The theme for the current quinquennium is, 'Go and bear fruit, fruit that will last' and the Porto event will develop this theme around the Bible verse, 'Rooted and Grounded in Love'. **Barbara Easton**

Helen Kim Memorial Scholar

This year was my first year as the Helen Kim Memorial Scholar for Britain, so I was very excited. I was nervous about taking over from Rachel Alison, who I could tell from our brief meetings is an incredibly kind and competent woman, but I had a huge amount of support from everyone I met. I was given my title as HKMS in August 2022 at the fantastic World Assembly which took place on Zoom. I was very blessed to join in the conversations that took place and to introduce myself formally to the World Federation alongside all the other wonderful young women who became Helen Kim Memorial Scholars for their countries that day.

Only a couple of months later, in October, was World Federation Day, hosted in a beautiful old church in Gloucester. This was Rachel's last appointment as HKMS (she was the keynote speaker), and my first event in my new role – I ran a little prayer activity station doing marble painting while discussing water pollution. The topic of the day was Just Living and we spoke about what we can do practically to help in the context of the climate emergency.

The new year was kicked off spectacularly by the World Executives inviting all the Helen Kim Memorial Scholars from around the world to come to their World Exec Meeting in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil. I had never flown before, so was very grateful to have the company of Heidi Hogan, the HKMS for Ireland, when I flew from Heathrow in late February. We were there for a little under a week and it was truly life-changing to spend that time with the other scholars and our beautiful mothers in Christ on the World Executive Committee.

In April, MWiB had our annual Swanwick Conference where I stood up and spoke for a few minutes about my time in Brazil. The following week, I flew to Ireland to join Heidi Hogan again, this time at the Methodist Women in Ireland annual Killarney Conference, where we led a workshop on nurturing the worldwide church, complete with little Kingdom of God passports which we designed together with much joy and laughter.

Throughout the year, I had several opportunities to join my district, Southampton, in their local events, such as a Celebration Day in Hedge End and a Sharing Day in Romsey – this was very good practice for me as a new driver (I haven't crashed my little car yet, but I have become very lost).

Overall, it was a fantastic year for me, and I have been deeply moved to see how welcoming and kind everyone has been as I settle into my scholarship. I am very much in awe of the way God has been moving in my life, and I'm eager to discover what He does for me – and through me – in the coming year.

Madeleine Reed





World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is a women led global ecumenical movement. The 2023 World Day of Prayer was prepared by the women of Taiwan with the theme 'I have heard about your faith' based on Ephesians 1: 15-19. Over 1800 services took place in 2023. Offerings received are distributed worldwide with grants totalling £108,000 made in 2022. The service for 2024 has been prepared by the women of Palestine entitled: 'I beg you bear with one another in love' which is taken from Ephesians 4:1-7. The National committee support preparation days throughout the country as well as organizing the Y-Pray conference aimed at younger women. As a women-led movement, everyone is welcome to attend and participate in WDP services. We hope and pray that more young women and men will get involved. *Rev Charity Madenyika (Methodist representative WDP committee)*

MWiB partnership with Epworth Old Rectory

In August a permanent exhibition room was opened at Epworth. The exhibition explores the history of Methodist Women in Britain and showcases objects from the Methodist Women's Collection that tell fascinating stories about both famous and everyday Methodist women from the past and the present. Current objects displayed include: The portrait of Mrs Caroline Wiseman who was hugely influential in Women's Work; a Bible class ticket book belonging to an ordinary Methodist woman called Lucy Ethel Morgans and a note book she kept when leading a Bible class of men; hand-knitted jumpers owned by Methodist women who contributed towards their community and charity abroad.

By displaying objects that relate to Methodist women and their personal histories, we hope to connect with and engage Methodist women and women of other religions or no religion at all with the exhibition and stories told. While the exhibition will be permanent, objects will be changed every year to continue to showcase unseen objects and untold stories. *Bronwen Braisdell*



Methodist Women in Britain Conference

Our 2023 conference was once again held at The Hayes conference centre in Derbyshire along with a Zoom option for those who were unable to travel. On Friday we heard all about Ruth's visit to Columbia, and first thing on Saturday we had news from the World Federation. Our keynote speaker was Pam Rhodes, well known to viewers of BBC's Song of Praise program. Her talk, entitled 'Hymns & Her' was full of fascinating stories and anecdotes about well known hymns and Pam's own life and work. We also had a good sing, ably accompanied by Jenny Pathmarajah on the piano. A range of workshops on the Saturday afternoon were followed in the evening by an insight into the life of the deaf community and more singing, this time with 'Signs for Worship' choir. On the Sunday Jenny Pathmarajah talked about 'Rock 'n Rolls rocky relationship with worship' and we shared together in worship and Holy Communion.

MWiB Conference 2024 will take place 19th—21st April and is entitled 'Words create Worlds'. Our key-note speakers are Rev Jenny Pathmarajah and Becca Byass (from All We Can).



Events Diary: 2023—2024

2023

- Fri 6th—Sun 8th October Trustees meeting at The Hayes, Swanwick
Saturday 14th October *Encounters at the Well*
World Federation Day at Trinity Methodist, Congleton
Wed 1st—Fri 3rd November MWiB Executive Retreat, St Katherines Foundation

2024

- Thurs 15th — Fri 16th February Trustees meeting at Hinsley Hall, Leeds
Friday 1st March Women's World Day of Prayer 'I beg you bear with one another in love' written by Palestinian women
Fri 19th—Sun 21st April *Words create Worlds* MWiB conference at The Hayes Swanwick. *Keynote: Jenny Pathmarajah & Becca Byass*
Saturday 18th May MWiB Garden Party at Epworth Old Rectory
Speakers: Dr Ruth Slatter & Dr Hannah Worthern
Thurs 13th— Mon 17th June *Grounded in Love* —WFMUCW Joint European Area Seminar, Porto, Portugal
Friday 28th June Mary Bosanquet Lecture given by Chine McDonald
MWiB Fringe event at Methodist Conference, Leeds
Fri 4th—Sun 6th October Trustees meeting at The Hayes, Swanwick
Saturday 19th October *Voices Near and Far.*
World Federation Day at Stamford Methodist, Lincs.

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