

Annual Review

2021-2022





for women, for justice, for Christ

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

Its 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.

It does this by:

- providing fellowship and training events, including residential conferences and one day events;
- producing resources and publications, both printed and online, 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 to support partners and agencies working to alleviate poverty and injustice.

The MWIB Forum acts as the Trustees of the charity, comprising one elected representative from each District within the Methodist Church in Britain, the MWIB Executive team, the Helen Kim Memorial Scholar and the Methodist representative of the World Day of Prayer Committee (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). The Forum meets twice yearly (February and October), and is the main decision-making body of MWIB.

Outside of Forum meetings, the work of MWIB is taken forward by the Executive team, comprising the President, Vice President, Finance Officer, World Federation Officer, Communications Coordinator and Media Coordinator.

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 and Enabling-**

For more information about MWIB and news of our current activities, visit our website: www.mwib.org.uk or to be added to our mailing list to receive quarterly mailings and updates, e.mail: communications.mwib@gmail.com

Forum Members (Trustees)

at September 2022



EES—?

Beds, Essex & Herts

Birmingham

Bolton & Rochdale

Bristol

Channel Islands

Chester & Stoke

Cornwall

Cumbria

Darlington

East Anglia

Isle of Man

Lancashire

Lincolnshire

Liverpool

London

Linda King

Diana Bosman

Philippa Hill

Margaret Johnston

Pam Gidney

Margaret Lindley

vacant

Judith James

Debs Coggrave

Mary Sachikonye

Sue Collier

Wendy Bridgman

Bronwen Braidell

Elaine Phillips

Helen Cornick

Manchester & Stockport

Newcastle upon Tyne

Northampton

Nottingham & Derby

Plymouth & Exeter

Scotland

Sheffield

Shetland

South East

Southampton

Synod Cymru

Wales Synod

Yorkshire West

Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury

Yorkshire North & East

President

Vice President

Finance Officer

Communications Officer

WFM&UWC Officer

Helen Kim Memorial Scholar

Women's World Day of Prayer

Digital

Ruth Dawson

Judith Oldroyd

Mary Gill

Sue Nickson

Elaine Banks

Barbara Harrison

Ann Taylor

Elizabeth Colley

vacant

Liz Chick

Gwenda Humphries

Susan Murrell

Janet Thompson

Pauline Beattie

Janice Clark

Ruth Parrott

Hilary Evans

Nina Rawlins

vacant

Barbara Easton

Madeleine Reed

Charity Madenyika

Amy Walters

President's Letter—Ruth Parrot

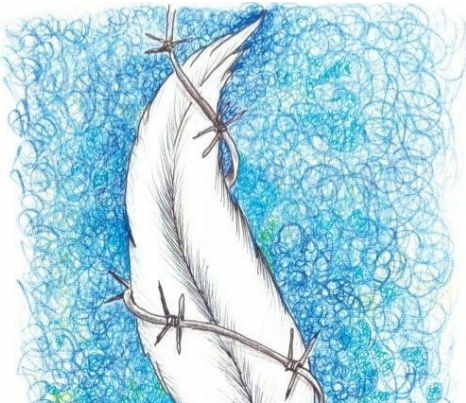
This year has been an adjusting to a new normality year, after the disruption of the pandemic. The Methodist Conference 2021 was a hybrid affair and my Commissioning as President of MWIB could not take place. Instead we videoed the service from our respective locations. The video is on our new MWIB YouTube channel and has been viewed around 350 times, along with recordings of the Easter Offering Service, the Swanwick Conference, the Garden Party and many others. There have been well over 3,000 viewings in total.

The last two years have been challenging. Groups have adapted, finding different ways of being together, by Zoom or by telephone calls. Some women have lost confidence and are cautiously taking their time to meet up again. Some groups have begun to meet but have found they are fewer in numbers. Others have met openly, glad to be back amongst their friends. It will take time to readjust. I am conscious, too, that we have lost some women to Covid-19 and that some women have lost loved ones. Please remember them in your prayers.

Our Annual Swanwick Conference returned to Swanwick, albeit with reduced numbers. It was so good to meet together at last. The theme was 'Surviving by Hope' and it was ably led by Jill Baker and Fiona Kendal. Fiona works for Mediterranean Hope in Rome, a refugee project in Italy. The Keynote and Bible Study sessions will live long in the memory. (See feather below, which was the Conference logo)

In 2021, we celebrated our tenth anniversary on line. A planned celebration was postponed to become a 10+1 Garden Party at Epworth Old Rectory in June 2022. Celebrate we did, with a keynote speaker Sarah Hollinsdale, Connexional Heritage Officer, a Service led by Rev. Claire Rawlinson, an afternoon tea and tours round the Old Rectory. The front cover gives a flavour of the event.

Times are changing and so must we if we are to meet the needs of the future. So we have been making plans for adjusting our organisational systems. In doing so, we hope to strengthen our vision, to help to make the world a fairer place, to fight for justice, equality and inclusion in the name of Christ. As our new logo states, we are: 'for women, for justice, for Christ'.



**We're now on YouTube—search for our channel:
Methodist Women in Britain**

Creative Spirituality

MWIB and National Council of Women (NCW)

Methodist Women in Britain are affiliated to the National Council of Women. In January 2022 the NCW approved a resolution from MWIB requesting government to instigate better data collection about those trafficked into the U.K. Copies of the resolution were also sent to interested parties, including Dame Sara Thornton, the Anti-Slavery Commissioner, who responded with a very positive letter.

This was followed up in May, 2022 when Hilary Evans gave an online talk about the subject to women of both NCW and MWIB.

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Tackling Human Trafficking in the UK

Zoom Event

Wed 25th May
3.00pm-4.15pm

Join Methodist Women in Britain and The National Council of Women to discuss the need for reliable data to discover the extent of Human Trafficking and adequately address the problems

Email info@ncwb.org to register and receive the zoom details



Easter Offering Service—Rachel Allison

One of the true honours of my time as a Helen Kim Memorial Scholar has been writing the 2022 Easter Offering Service. What felt like a quite daunting project when I started, turned into a love letter to the women's movement within Methodism worldwide and a way for more women to share their incredible stories.

My aim for this year's Easter Offering story was to highlight some of the amazing, heartbreaking and inspiring stories of women we rarely hear or read. It was inspired by talking to many women within Methodist Women in Britain about their lives and hearing some incredible stories and the beautiful reading in Proverbs:

'Strength and dignity are her clothing and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue' -(Proverbs 31 25-26).

I found so many stories in the Bible that we don't hear from the pulpit very often, or overlook and miss the true radical nature of. I am very grateful to the wonderful Easter Offering Task Group who helped me narrow down the stories to three, as well as suggesting some wonderful hymns.

As well as reading and reflecting on these stories, I found writing prayers focused on women quite a moving and spirit-filled experience. Reminding myself of the complete mixture of emotions that come with being a woman was both painful and joyful and helped me reflect on what it means to be a woman in the church today.

I hope and pray that those who took part in an Easter Offering service this year found it helpful and were inspired by the women highlighted.



World Day of Prayer

Three years have passed since I began representing the MWIB movement on the WDP National committee. I am now serving as one of three WDP field workers, and I represent the Southern region. I had the opportunity to attend the WDP International Conference hosted by Scotland on zoom from 16-18 June, 2022. I represented WDP in one of the working groups responsible for coordinating the Presidential and International Committee Elections. I presented the nominations for the election of the President and Joyce Larko Steiner of Ghana is the current President of the WDP International Committee. I also oversaw the elections of the African region's International Committee representatives.

Based on Jeremiah 29:11, the theme of the 2022 poems written by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland was 'I know the plans I have for you.' Women from around the world prayed for us all. Taiwanese women have written prayers with the theme 'I have heard about your faith' for the 3 March, 2023 service based on Ephesians 1:15-19.

Our 2022 Link Day took place in London on the hottest day of the year. This is the day that all preparation day organisers gather for camaraderie, information and service rehearsal. Due to the Covid pandemic this was my first year attending face-to-face preparation day as a committee member. The 2024 service will be written by Palestinian women. Their theme is 'I implore you to love one another'.

WDP encourage you to personalise each service. Invite, if possible, prominent local figures, such as bishops and other church leaders, the mayor, local representatives and any other local Christian celebrities.

The Y-Pray Conference is open to all women, but younger women are strongly encouraged to attend. Please spread the word in your churches and small groups. The event will take place at The Hayes Conference Centre from Friday, 28 April to Sunday 30 April, 2023. If you cannot find the information you need on the WDP website please contact the office staff.

As she retires, the WDP National Committee bids farewell to Dr. Elizabeth Burroughs, who represented the MWIB on the WDP National Committee for many years and became the WDP EWNl President. Our prayers and gratitude are with Elizabeth and other committee members retiring this year.

Charity Madenyika, MWIB representative to the WDP National Committee.

Global Social Justice Whose Bag is it Anyway.....?

We have been given a grant by the World Day of Prayer, Swiss Committee, for an interfaith Environmental project in which we have partnered with Touchstone, the Methodist Interfaith Centre in Bradford. It is entitled 'Whose Bag is it Anyway....?'

The project will help women of different faiths to get to know one another, to understand what the different faith's holy books say about caring for the environment and how we can all work together to combat aspects of climate change.

In March we launched our project by having an online conference with speakers from Jewish, Islamic, Sikh, Hindu and Christian faiths, who about how their faith teaches them to care for the environment. This was hosted by Rev. Jenny Ramsden, the Interfaith Worker at Touchstone.

In the Autumn, three groups of interfaith women will meet to discuss their faith and aspects of climate change. They will also work on craft activities, one of which will be making a re-usable bag from recycled materials. This is a pilot scheme and craft packs will be made to enable other interfaith groups to meet and pray together to combat climate change. Next year there will be a Symposium at the end of the project to exhibit the work done.

Twelve Baskets

When Lockdown forced many into isolating in their homes, we partnered with Twelve Baskets, part of The Vine at Home organisation, for some months. This provided a weekly worship sheet to enable people to participate in a service, and to help them feel less isolated, and more connected to others.

We heard stories of the service sheet being passed on for others to share, over the course of each week, for example all residents in a block of flats.

Hilary Evans



Global Social Justice

Campaigns

Creating Dementia Friendly Churches— Hilary Evans

In 2022, the original 'Dementia Friendly' pack has been completely revised and updated. MWIB, in partnership with Methodist Homes (MHA) has worked to produce 'Creating Dementia-inclusive Churches'. Support for dementia sufferers and their carers is offered along with information for churches about how they can be more user friendly.

There are facts about dementia and references where further help and advice can be found.

The packs come as loose leaf A4 sheets in a biodegradable see-through wallet. They are available from—
resources.mwib@gmail.org for a donation (guide £5) to cover costs of printing.



PICTURE OF FRONT PAGE OF DOCUMENT **AGLIT+ - Ruth Parrott**

A President's project during the pandemic was not easy to find and so I have partnered with 'All We Can' to support AGLIT+ in Malawi (Adolescent Girls Literacy Plus). This is a scheme which enables adolescent girls who have received little or no schooling, to resume their education.

Many girls marry very early and have children; some girls are needed to look after younger children or to help in the fields or with domestic duties. Some families are poor and cannot afford to send their children to school and boys education will always take priority over that of girls'.

This scheme allows the girls to take their children with them to the Learning Centres. There they are taught basic literacy and arithmetic as well as life skills and how to look after their children.

AGLIT+ will enable the girls to find employment or even to start their own businesses and help to raise their families out of poverty.

Thank you to all those who have raised money for this project so far. RUTH

Resourcing and Enabling

EMPOWERMENT GIFTS –2021

Each year MWIB donates up to £10,000 to projects working to empower women and girls overseas. In 2021 6 gifts were awarded

To support insurgency victims in Northern Nigeria £1,050

Women Empowerment Programme in Sierra Leone £2,000

Prevention of gender based violence seminar in Cameroon

Yummy Store—teaching baking skills in Argentina £1,500

Colombia Methodist Church promotion and Prevention in sexual health and reproductive Health £1,400

Sewing Futures in Argentina—teaching single Women to sew

£2,000

MWIB Merchandise

Thursdays in Black T Shirts for Women and men
Short and long sleeve options
Prices £13.22 and £17.00

New eco-pens which are wrapped in paper and the 'plastic' parts are 50% wheat/straw—in keeping with our sustainability ethos
Price £1

Report from a 2020 Empowerment Gift -

Karibuni in Kenya received a gift of £1,500 to help distribute food parcels to families affected by the pandemic at the Hunajeza Project near Kalolenie, Kenya. This women's group started feeding local orphan children.

In March 2020 formal education was put on hold in Kenya, which meant they received no food. Karibuni and Hunajeza immediately started to distribute food parcels containing rice, maize flour, beans, cooking oil and wheat flour to all 55 children and their families/guardians every month.

The money received from MWIB and from their supporters went to help these during a very difficult time.

MWIB Pastoral Care Fund

This fund has been set up to assist churches who wish to develop their pastoral work in line with MWIB's mission statement—For women, for justice, for Christ

See website for further information

MWIB uses the interest from its Welfare Fund to make grants for local projects.

The aim is to foster active interest and involvement in social and community action and to encourage new projects that fulfil a local community need.

Applications should be made through your District Forum Rep.

See MWIB website for more information and further details of items on sale.

The address for ordering items is:-

resources.mwib@gmail.com

FINANCE—NINA RAWLINS

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

For more information about gifts, grants and bursaries available from MWIB, visit 'Resourcing and Enabling' on our website:
www.mwib.org.uk

World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

A new Executive Team were commissioned at the World Assembly 9th—14th August, 2022

The new World President is Mrs. Sipiwé Chisvo from the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe; World Vice President Mrs. Ivonne Pereira Diaz from Chile; World Secretary Mrs. Louise Wilson from Ireland; World Treasurer Mrs. Ngui Ting from Hong Kong and Alison Judd becomes the President Emerita.

Alison Judd, who has been World President of the Federation for the past six years, providing inspiring leadership, calmly linking all the section of the Assembly. She and her team should be very proud of their achievements during this period which included the Covid Pandemic which curtailed many activities.

Naomi Allison is the new Web manager and Ligia Istrate continues as Editor of the Tree of Life. Joan Capel is U.N. rep in New York and Rachel Allison is the U.N. rep for Geneva.

We are in the Europe—Britain & Ireland Area and Barbara Easton has become Area resident. Wanda Hogan is Area Vice President. We thank Louise and Wilson and Carolyn Lawrence for serving in these roles for the last six years.

Please continue to support the new officers with your prayers as they pursue the action plan **‘Go and bear fruit —Fruit that will last’** based on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Partnership with All We Can—Ruth Parrott and Hilary Evans

This year we were delighted to partner with ‘All We Can’ (The Methodist Relief and Development Fund), to produce their Lent Reflections, entitled ‘Let Wisdom Speak’. These devotions were based on Proverbs 1:20 ‘Wisdom cries out in the street: in squares she raises her voice’.

This was an opportunity for MWIB to highlight, as part of their tenth year under that title, their commitment to women and women’s issues.

Women leaders from a variety of backgrounds shared their piece of wisdom for that moment in time. The stories told by women from All We Can’s local partners in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Uganda, enabled them to share their wisdom and experiences. MWIB women contributed their wisdom too, sharing their ideas for turning the knowledge of wisdom into meaningful actions. Each piece of wisdom was accompanied by a short prayer based on one of the focus Bible passages from the week, with a verse to meditate on.

By supporting All We Can and its partners round the world we are able together to help people round the world to reach their potential.



World Church Focus

The Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship update—Rachel Allison

Life has changed a lot for me in the six years I have been the Helen Kim Memorial Scholar. In many ways Methodist Women in Britain and the World Federation of Methodist and United Church Women have been one of the few constants in my life over this time. In the last 6 years I have graduated from university, had five different jobs, moved house four times, made lots of new friends and even fallen in love. Through all these changes in my life the women involved in Methodist Women in Britain and my World Federation sisters have been encouraging, caring and a prayerful guiding presence in my life. Thank you to all of you who have checked in with me, prayed for me, encouraged me and told me your stories over the last six years, with a special shout to Carolyn Lawrence who was my awesome World Federation partner over these years. It has been so wonderful to meet so many amazing women and I am sorry I can't thank you all individually.

Over my time I have been trying to encourage more young women to get involved in MWIB and raise the issue of gender based violence. We have done some fantastic work on raising awareness through Thursdays in Black and become more open about talking about this issue in our churches and communities. It was such a privilege to write the Easter Offering Service—'Tell her story, Tell our story' but there is still plenty of work to do and I hope that MWIB will continue to champion the rights of women both inside and outside the church for many more years.

Unfortunately, I have not been as successful as I would have liked to be in getting more young women to join MWIB over my time. Some of this has been hampered by Covid and my lack of time to devote to this role after university but I think there are also issues that lie within the structures and culture of MWIB. MWIB is a warm and welcoming place but if we want to expand our ministry to young women we need to reflect on our structures, culture and events to make sure they are interesting and accessible to younger women.

This experience has been life changing and life affirming and I am so grateful for all the opportunities it has given me, from going to the UN in Geneva to speaking, travelling to South Africa to women at events all over the U.K. each year. I have grown in confidence, public

presence as I have and look forward to what MWIB





Ninian story from

Twelve women from around the U.K. and Germany gathered in Glasgow. Many of us had been on Pilgrimage with Jill Baker before but for others, this was their first pilgrimage adventure. We had been planning this pilgrimage for so long and it was great to finally meet, full of expectation for what lay ahead.

Kentigern, known as Mungo, was a missionary in the late 6th century and the founder and patron saint of an early Scottish Christian saint buried at Whithorn and St. Ninian's cave, on the shore now a point of pilgrimage.

45 miles and used buses and trains to get to various points on our pilgrimage.

Historical sights around Glasgow, we travelled to Ayr, the birthplace of Robbie Burns, and to Troon. We then went by train to Stranraer, another historical pilgrim town. The journey from Castle Kennedy to Glenluce, visiting the ruined Glenluce Abbey, a Cistercian and 1190. Our final day of walking took us to Ninian's cave, the 'sacred centre' of our wild beautiful walk along the coastal path to Isle of Whithorn where there are several sites in, including the ruined chapel.

Journeyed and shared together in fellowship, prayer and worship. Some of the journey was tiring but it was also lots of fun and a wonderful experience. After the pilgrimage we are taking many happy memories and lasting friendships.

This wonderful gift to Methodist Women in Britain.



Events Diary: 2022—2023

2022

Sat 7th — 9th October

MWiB Forum meets at The Hayes, Swanwick

Saturday 15th October

Just Living

World Federation Day at
St. John's Northgate Methodist Church,

Gloucester

2023

Sat 18th February

MWiB Forum meets by Zoom

Friday 3rd March

Women's World Day of Prayer
I Have Heard About Your Faith—Ephesians 1

15-19

Written by Taiwanese Women

Friday 14th—

Sunday 16th April

Swanwick Conference

Save The Date

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick,

Derbyshire

Friday 28th -

Sunday 30th April

Y Pray

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

22nd—29th June

Methodist Conference, Birmingham

Tuesday 27th June

Inaugural Mary Bosanquet Lecture

'Reading Between The Lines' -
finding women in the stories of the Bible, even
looks like they are not there

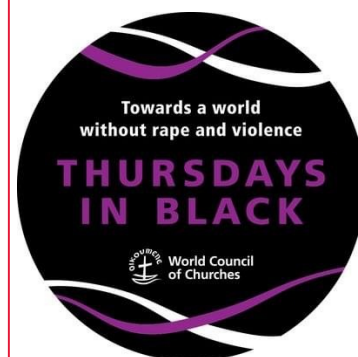
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Canon Dr. Paula Gooder,
Theologian, Lecturer in Bible Studies
Methodist Conference, Birmingham

Felted Canaries made
at the October Forum
meeting were sent to
M.P.'s for COP26 event



Jane Day
Carolyn Lawrence
Rachel Allison





www.mwib.org.uk

Methodist Women in Britain

@methodistwomen

Contact us: Methodist Women in Britain
c/o Touchstone
4 Easby Road
BRADFORD BD7 1QX

Telephone: 0300 030 9873

Email: communications.mwib@gmail.com

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