



Methodist Women in Britain

for women, for justice, for Christ

Newsletter
Autumn 2022

A letter from the President

Dear All,

Autumn seems to have arrived prematurely this year. The drought-like conditions we have experienced have affected the trees, which are already shedding their leaves, and our water supply, which we usually take for granted, is diminishing. Now we need to think how we use our precious water, to use it sparingly and to use our resources wisely. If the forecasts are correct, we will all need to be careful how we use our energy too and to find ways to live more simply, but at the same time, making sure that our friends and neighbours are okay. Taking turns to meet in one another's homes would save on energy, encourage friendships and fellowship, especially when working on a project together.

The Exec committee have been planning how we can restructure, in order to work more efficiently, and the plans will go to Forum this autumn. The Connexional Methodist Church, too, are having to restructure. Membership has dwindled over the last few years therefore they are reducing the number of delegates to Conference and sadly, we have lost our seat. Please can I encourage you to consider putting your names forward at Synod to be a District representative. In this way we will still be able to represent the views of MWiB and make our voices heard.

This last year, we have said 'Goodbye' to Rachel Allison, our Helen Kim Memorial Scholar, who has done a splendid job, especially helping to organise the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women's 14th Assembly and who was responsible for writing the excellent Easter Offering Service this year. We also say thank you to Louise Wilson, who has been our WFMUCW Area President and Wanda Hogan, the Irish HKMS, though it is not 'Goodbye' as Louise has taken up the post of the WF World Secretary and Wanda is now our Area Vice President. We welcome Barbara Easton as our new Area President and say 'goodbye' to Carolyn Lawrence. A big 'Thank you to you all for your hard work in representing MWiB. We are pleased to welcome our new Helen Kim Memorial Scholar, Madeleine Reed (see below), who many of you will have met at Swanwick.

I hope that I will see you all at the World Federation Day on October 15th at St. John's Northgate Methodist Church, Gloucester, which has been organised by Rachel and Barbara; Just Living – being faithful with God's Resources. Look out for instructions on how to book on the website: mwib@org.uk

Please pray for the Exec Committee and for Forum as we make important decisions about our future. Whatever the future holds, we trust in a faithful God who will be with us as we journey on.

Blessings

Ruth

World Assembly 9th – 14th August 2022

A brief report of the World Federation Assembly meeting
The World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women [WFMUCW] held its quinquennium meeting in August. A year late, and online instead of in person in Gothenburg due to the effects of the pandemic. Quite a feat to link people across the world together every day for almost a week!

The theme 'Go and bear Fruit; fruit that will last' exemplified the fruits of the Spirit told in Galatians 5: 22. Each unit of the Federation contributed devotions over the days, each taking one of the spiritual 'fruits', and sharing their well thought through thoughts on each one.

Jill Baker provided a stimulating, challenging, and thought provoking bible study on the theme linking various Bible passages to her message. Amanda Khosi Mukwashi, who was CEO of Christian Aid for several years gave a powerful keynote address focussing on poverty and violence to women and urging us all 'not to be silent in the face of injustice'.

We heard reports from the UN representative and each unit, had opportunities to meet in break our rooms, and to view online workshops.

A new Executive team were commissioned along with new Presidents and Vice presidents of each unit. Helen Kim Memorial Scholars [HKMS] for the next quinquennium were introduced, sharing thoughts about women who have inspired them. Finally, a service including the commissioning of the new appointees provided a fitting and moving conclusion to six days of worship, sharing and study.

Alison Judd, who has been World President of the Federation for the past six years, provided inspiring leadership, calmly linking all the sections of the Assembly. She and her team should be very proud of their achievements.

All the sections of the Assembly were recorded, so if you missed the opportunity to join, or would like to watch any part again, you can go to www.youtube.com/c/wfmucw, or check www.wfmucw.org website.

As Amanda Khozi Mukwashi said 'Let us stand with God who strengthens us.'

Hilary Evans



She's fruit of the Spirit we're told
By the writers of stories of old.
If we let Jesus in, his Spirit will bring
All the joy that we ever could hold.

That joy grows within us they say,
If we trust in the Lord, day by day.
With Jesus our partner, and yoked in his
grace,
Together we'll find a right way/

Joy is embedded inside us.
It's a feeling that's deeply within,
For it's born of the love of the Saviour,
our Lord,
He will guide us whatever befalls.

God's gifts are alive in our hearts.
They flourish in lives filled with faith.
We'll find peace in our souls, gentle
touch for our roles;
We will weather each challenge with
grace.

A life full of faith is required,
For our patience to follow and grow.
When our gifts are replete, self control
will complete
And we'll live by the Spirit, in love.

Galatians 5:22 - 26
Hilary Evans - August 22

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Hello! I'm Madeleine Reed and I will be Britain's Helen Kim Memorial Scholar for the next five years.

I was raised in Wiltshire, just outside beautiful Salisbury. I was taken out of school when I was eight to be educated at home, partly because my parents didn't want me to be 'brainwashed into becoming a Christian'. I gave myself to Christ when I was sixteen and never looked back. Since I'm the only Christian in my family, I witness primarily through my lifestyle rather than through words. Perhaps ironically, I am a writer and published my book in 2021.

I have spent most of my life struggling with an undiagnosed disability. I learned that I was autistic during the first lockdown in 2020 and while I'm on the waiting list to have a diagnosis, God has been showing me all the ways that this mental difference, or neurodiversity, makes me beautiful and special in ways that God always intended me to be. It's still difficult, but I can see myself through God's eyes much better than I ever did before.

I worship at a small, rural Methodist Church where I serve as Safeguarding Officer and, as the only young person present, handle the technology. God is doing great things there and we have several wonderful outreach projects, notably our monthly Communithea, where people can come in for a cuppa and offload their problems without receiving judgement – or unsolicited advice!

My Minister recommended the Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship to me, as she could see my potential for leadership long before I could. I was thrilled to be welcomed into Methodist Women in Britain and meet so many amazing women, on Zoom and at the Swanwick conference in April. While I was waiting to find out if I had been chosen for the HKMS, I was filled with fear and trepidation, but as soon as I received the good news, all my fear dissipated, and God blessed me with a deep sense of peace and of being on the right path. Now, I am eager to learn from the experience and wisdom of all the women I will be falling in love with as a sister and daughter in Christ, not only over the next five years, but hopefully, for the rest of my life.

Methodist Women in Britain Pastoral Care Fund

Methodist Women in Britain is pleased to announce a Pastoral Care Fund available to churches throughout the Connexion. This fund has been set up to assist churches who wish to develop their pastoral care work in line with MWiB's mission statement – for women, for justice, for Christ – and, in particular, to fulfil parts of its aims of bringing 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 by equipping them to participate more fully in the wider church and in society.

Single discretionary grants of up to £200 may be awarded to churches that are working hard post-Covid to further general pastoral care in their areas: this can either be towards new initiatives or to extend existing ones. Some examples could be for cards and stamps to keep in touch, or towards a tea party, etc and one Circuit has made distinct efforts to reach out and increase their pastoral care towards older folk.

However, grants will not be awarded towards employment or fixtures/fittings.

If you would like to apply, please write to MWiB giving full details of how this grant would be used. Letters can be sent to MWiB, c/o Touchstone, 4 Easby Road, Bradford BD7 1QX, or, preferably, by email to finance.mwib@gmail.com Please ensure that full bank details are included in your application.



New eco-pens - we have taken delivery of some new pens; they are paper-wrapped, and the 'plastic' parts are actually 50% wheatstraw - so more in keeping with our sustainability ethos. They sell for £1 each, just like the old pens. While we still have supplies, we are also selling the old white pens - so please specify which are needed when you order!

Elaine Banks



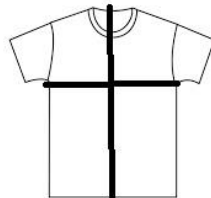
please note that the new email address for ordering MWiB merchandise is -

resources.mwib@gmail.com



men's medium

21.5 across
28.5 long



men's large

22.5 across
28.5 long

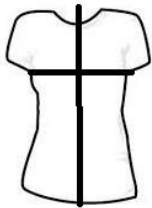


men's ex large

24 across
30 long

THURSDAYS in BLACK t-shirts -

all sizes approximate, and all come in short/long sleeve options [£13.22 and £17.00]



women's medium

18 across
23.5 long



women's large

19 across
24.5 long



women's ex-large

19.5 across
25.5 long

Contact us:

MWiB President: Ruth Parrott thepresident.mwib@gmail.com

Vice President: Hilary Evans vicepresident.mwib@gmail.com

Finance Officer: Nina Rawlins finance.mwib@gmail.com

WFM&UCW Officer: Barbara Easton wfmucw.mwib@gmail.com

Resources Officer: Elaine Banks resources.mwib@gmail.com

Website & Social Media Coord: Amy Walters website.mwib@gmail.com

General enquiries: 0300 030 9873 admin@mwib.org.uk or post to

MWiB, c/o Touchstone, 4 Easby Road, Bradford BD7 1QX

Visit us: Follow us: Website: <http://www.mwib.org.uk>

Registered Charity No: 1156626 Methodist Women in Britain @methodistwomen



JUST LIVING
being faithful with
God's resources



10am-4pm, 15th October 2022

St. John's Northgate
Methodist Church, Gloucester



World Federation
of Methodist and
Uniting Church Women



Methodist Women
in Britain

for women, for justice, for Christ

The World Federation Day 2022 will focus on UN Sustainable Development Goal 12 – responsible consumption and production.

During the day we will explore our calling to be stewards of God's creation through worship, bible study, prayer and various activities.

Refreshments will be provided and while the day is free we ask that you consider donating £10 to help cover the cost of the event.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/world-federation-day-just-living-being-faithful-with-gods-resources-tickets-369838184967>